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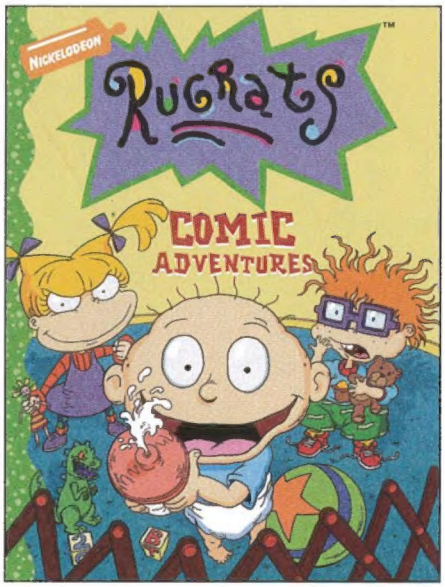

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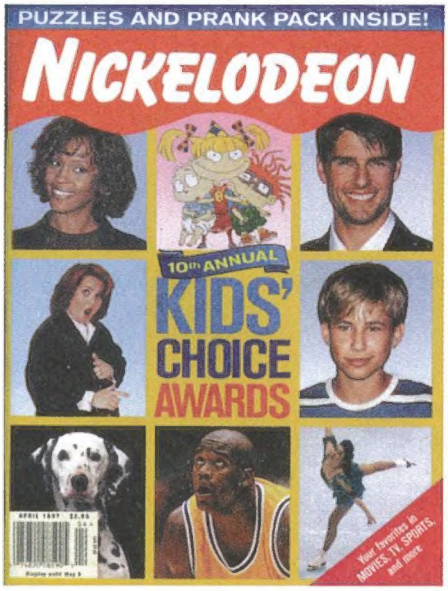

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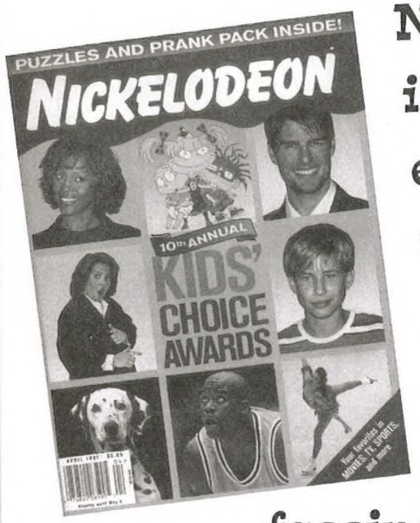
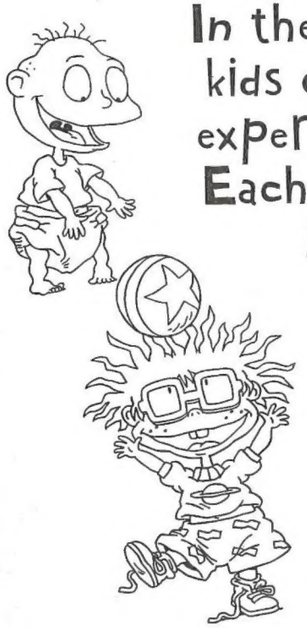


NICKELODEON MAGAZINE is the award-winning entertainment magazine from the #1 network for kids. It's packed with celebrity interviews, fascinating facts, comics, pullouts, quizzes, and more!

AWARDS

NICKELODEON MAGAZINE awards and honors include: Parents' Choice Gold Award, Cooper-Hewitt Museum Permanent Collection, EdPress Association Awards, Society of Publication Designers Awards, International Design Magazine Award, Gold Ink Award, and a National Magazine Award Finalist.



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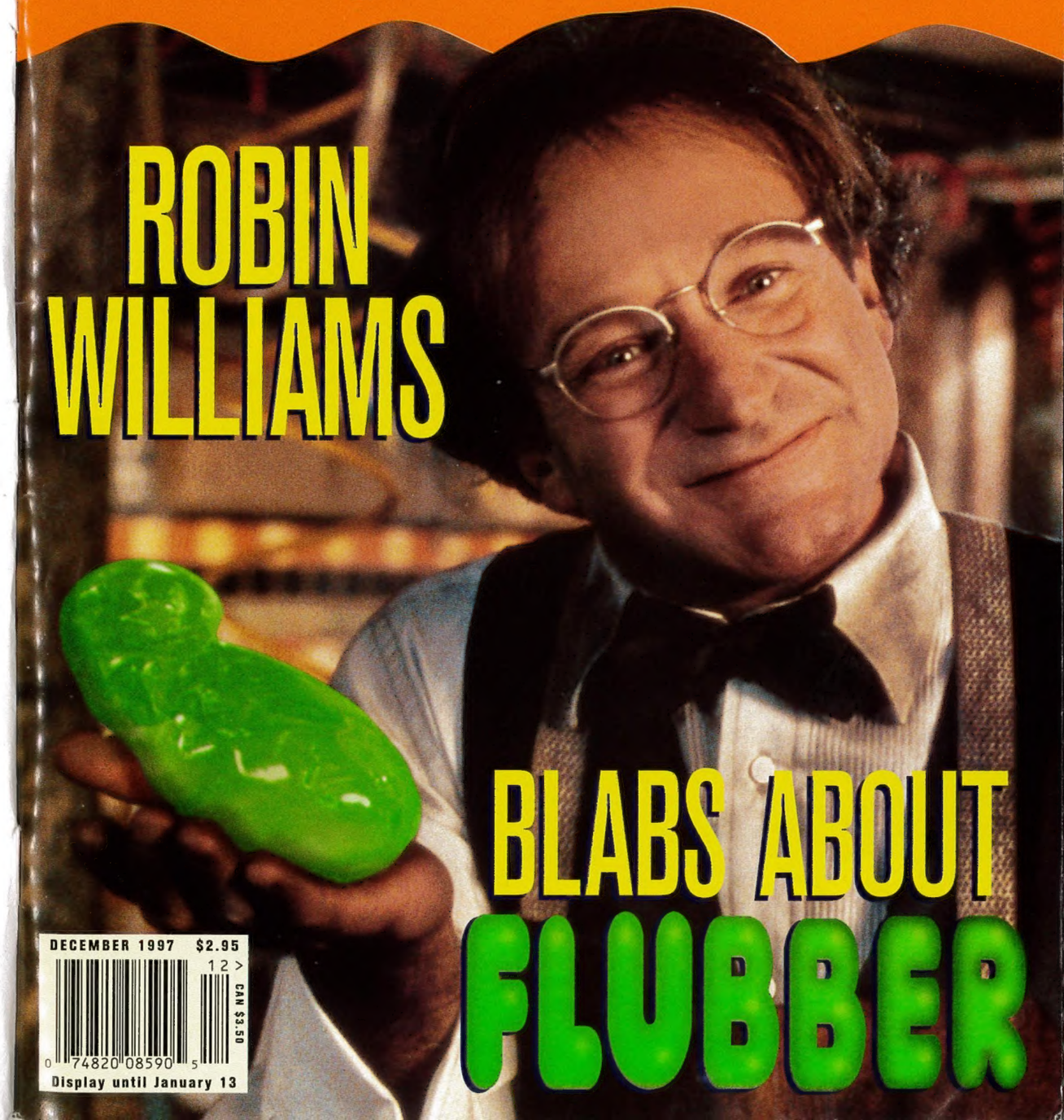
NICKELODEON



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I'm Zelda Van Gutters, the magazine's roving reporter. Look for my biting wit throughout the issue.

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Attention: WHEN YOU SEE THIS Real IT MEANS THE STORY IS TRUE.

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Check out NICKELODEON MAGAZINE at www.nick.com

Letters to the Editors

Real

The *American Ghoul* parody *(right)* in our October issue sparked quite a controversy. We received letters both positive and negative about it.

Dear Nick Mag,
You have gone too far! In your October issue, you made fun of *American Girl* magazine! What have they ever done to you, I'd like to know. Your magazine comes to my house every month, and I liked it until now! I also buy *American Girl*. If you keep doing this, I'll stop buying your magazine.
Amanda L., age 12
Chanhassen, Minnesota

Dear Nick Mag,
I loved your *American Ghoul*. I really got my friend with it.
Kristen S., age 12
Gallatin, Tennessee

Dear Amanda and Kristen:
You weren't the only readers with strong feelings about our spooky spoof. It makes us wonder what readers would have thought of the magazine parodies we *almost* ran: *Warts Illustrated for Kids*, *Boo's Life*, *Ranger Ick*, *Disease Adventures*, *Sesame Scream Magazine*, and *Yuckelodeon*.

Send your letters to:

Letters to the Editors
NICKELODEON MAGAZINE
1515 Broadway, 41st floor
New York, NY 10036

Please include your name, age, address, and phone number.

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NICKELODEON magazine

Staff is good food.

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For subscription information, please see page 82.

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the legend of
Pine Peak
BLUES

(a fill-in-the-blanks picture rhyme)

'Twas a chill winter's eve, with fresh _____ on the ground
The whole _____ was silent for miles _____.
When out of the forest, at a _____-fast pace
Came a wild white _____ with a smiling _____.

"Ha ha ha!" laughed the horse. "Children, come near!
I have brought _____ for you—there is nothing to _____!"
A _____ stood nearby. In it, a _____.
And from the front _____, children stepped into the _____.

As they approached, clothes flew into the air—
Shirts aplenty and _____ for all who were _____!
The kids asked, "Who are you?", but the _____ wouldn't speak.
Just galloped back where he came...
from the woods of Pine Peak.

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Whatever We Want

Food, Glorious Food

Welcome to our Food Issue. There's salt and pepper down by the page numbers if you need it. (We ate a lot of snacks while putting this issue together and got crumbs all over the top of the magazine—sorry!)

It's a Wonderful Quiz

Someone snuck into our Holiday Video Vault and messed with all the titles. Can you sort them out?

Answers on page 82.

- Rudolph's Shiny Brown Christmas
- Santa Claus Stole Christmas
- How the Grinch Conquers the Martians
- Jingle on 34th Street
- The Santa Life
- The Little New Year
- A Charlie All the Way
- It's a Wonderful Clause
- Miracle Drummer Boy

NICKELODEON MAGAZINE: *The Restaurant*

Our office is located in Times Square, surrounded by theme restaurants, such as the Official All Star Cafe, the Motown Cafe, Planet Hollywood, Jekyll and Hyde, and the Hard Rock Cafe. Here are three fantasy theme restaurants where we'd like to eat very soon.

NICKELODEON MAGAZINE: The Restaurant

- Have a seat at our Table of Contents.
- You can order "Whatever You Want," but we might serve you "Whatever We Want."
- All the food is covered with green slime.
- If you can't finish your meal, Zelda will pack you a doggie bag.

You *otter* try this place!

The Prehisto-rock Cafe

- We serve club sandwiches, rockfish, mastodon wings, stone-ground crackers, and extra-aged cheddar cheese.
- Your meal is free if you can help us discover fire.

Otter!

- All food served by playful, mischievous sea otters.
- Lie back and relax on a bed of kelp as you float through the restaurant.
- We offer a full menu of sea urchins, mussels, and small fish, served with rocks that can be used to crack open the food on your belly.
- Frolic after dinner on one of our three water slides.

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Hollywood for the Holidays

We chewed the fat with some celebrities about the holidays and food.

Real

Leslie Nielsen of *Mr. Magoo*

Do you write thank-you notes for gifts?
If somebody is kind enough to send me a present, it's only right to say thank you. I have terrible handwriting, but I do make the effort.

What's your favorite thing about winter?
The snow, of course—walking in the snow when it's really cold and getting the sound of a squeak out of each shoe. I like that for about a day.

Bernadette Peters of *Anastasia*

What's the best present you've ever received?
My singing teacher's gift of teaching me how to sing. I still thank her all the time.

Are there any special foods you eat during the holidays?
My sister usually makes a pumpkin pie, and my father always brings cannoli.

Nathan Lane of *Mousehunt*

Were you a picky eater as a kid?
Yes. Whenever my family went out to eat, I always ordered a hamburger—even in fancy restaurants. I'm much better now, but I still enjoy a good hamburger with a little cheese and a little ketchup. A pickle on the side is nice, too.

What is the most annoying holiday song?
It's "Here We Come A-Wassailing." I always think, "What the heck is wassailing?" [It's caroling.] There are many old-fashioned phrases in Christmas songs. I have no idea what they mean. It's actually fun to look them up and find out.

Alex D. Linz of *Home Alone 3*

What would be in an Alex candy bar?
It would have chewy and crunchy parts with dark chocolate.

Have you ever been in a food fight?
All the food fights I've been in were in a hotel room while we were shooting *Home Alone 3*. When my co-stars and I earned enough stars for good behavior from my tutor, Don, we were allowed to have a food fight. And once, Don put up plastic all around our room. We wore big plastic garbage bags, cracked eggs on one another's heads, threw baby powder, and tossed water balloons. The place was a total mess.

Charisma Carpenter of *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*

What's your favorite holiday food?
My mom's green-bean casserole—sautéed onions, canned green beans, lots of sour cream, cheddar cheese, and bread crumbs on top.

Kristen Johnston of *3rd Rock from the Sun*

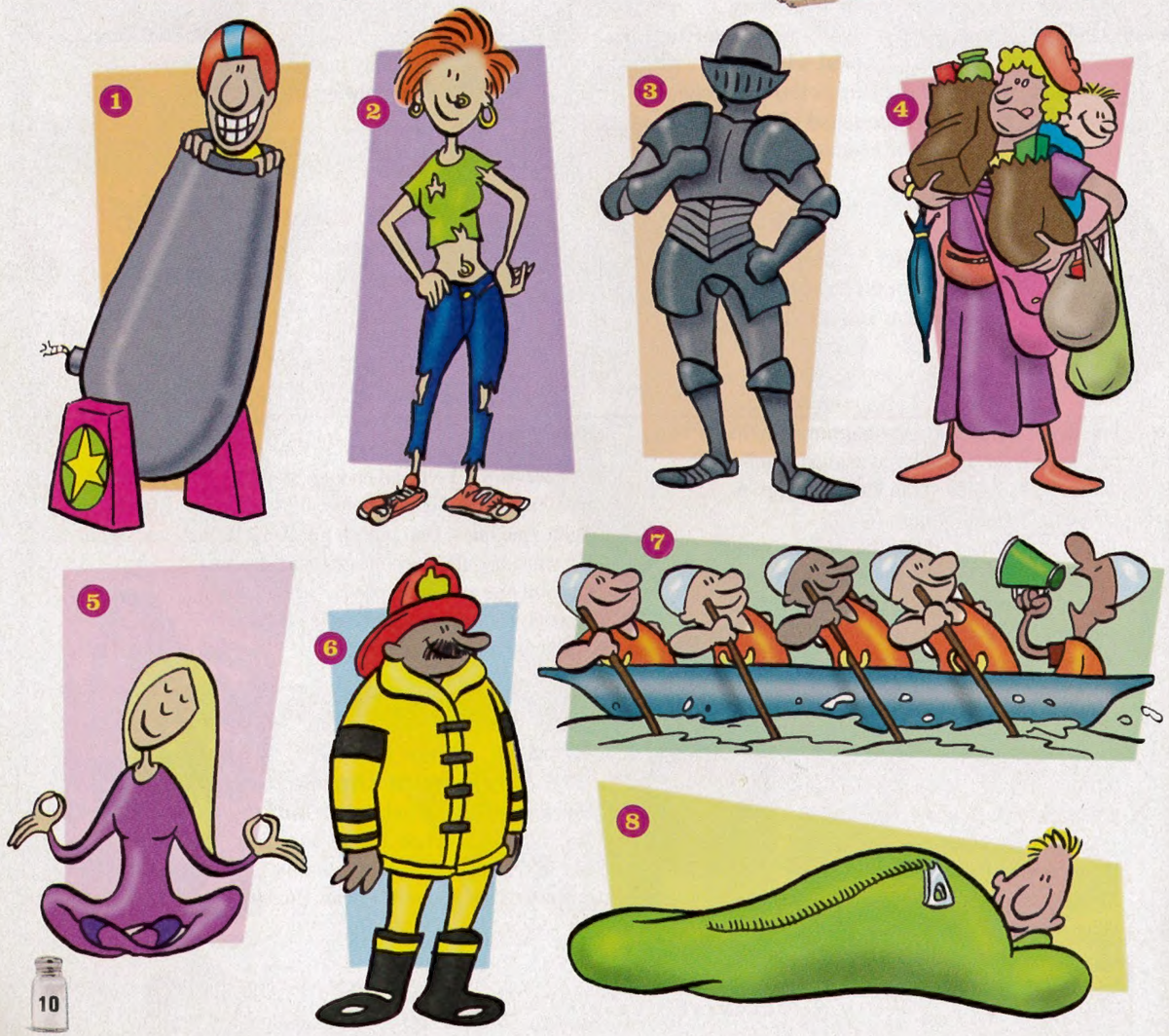
Were you a picky eater as a kid?
No, and I'm still not. I'll eat anything put in front of me except brussels sprouts. That's where I draw the line.

Food Faves

by Robert Leighton

Can you match the eight people below to their favorite foods shown at right? Each person has something in common with his or her favorite snack. For example, the man in the easily peeled sleeping bag *(8)* likes eating bananas *(a)*.

Answers on page 82.



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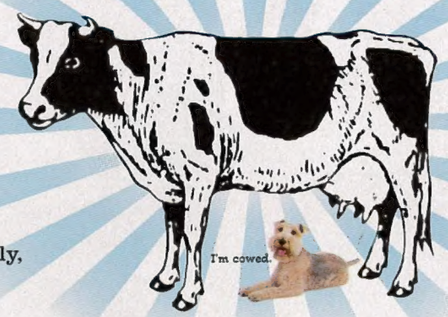
CHOCOLATE-Flavored Quiz

Don't fudge this true-or-false quiz about chocolate. *by Steven Stern*

Answers on page 82.



1. **T F** A scientist on the Isle of Bosco, Scotland, has cloned a black-and-white cow that produces chocolate milk.

2. **T F** About 1,500 years ago, Mayan rulers in Central America were buried with jars of chocolate at their sides.

3. **T F** The large group of stars next to the Milky Way Galaxy is known as the Snickers Cluster.

4. **T F** Several hundred years ago in Italy, perfume made from whale intestines was sometimes added to hot chocolate.

5. **T F** An Italian cookbook from the 1700s included a recipe for chocolate-dipped fried liver.

6. **T F** Chicago gangster Bugs Nougat was known for killing his rivals by feeding them too many heart-shaped chocolates in the St. Valentine's Day Massacre.

7. **T F** The right to "frequent consumption of chocolaty foods" was originally part of the Bill of Rights.

8. **T F** Chocolate chip cookies were first baked in Massachusetts in the 1930s.

9. **T F** Count Chocula was a caramel-sucking Hungarian nobleman who lived during the 1600s.

10. **T F** M&M's are the seeds of chocolate trees.

11. **T F** White chocolate is not really chocolate.

12. **T F** Stonehenge, a group of huge stones in England, is made of candy bars that large aliens nibbled on when they visited Earth several thousand years ago.

13. **T F** The 3 Musketeers Bar was originally the 2-Musketeers-and-1-Ninja Bar.

14. **T F** Cacao beans, the beans from which chocolate is made, were used as money in Mexico and Central America in the 1500s.

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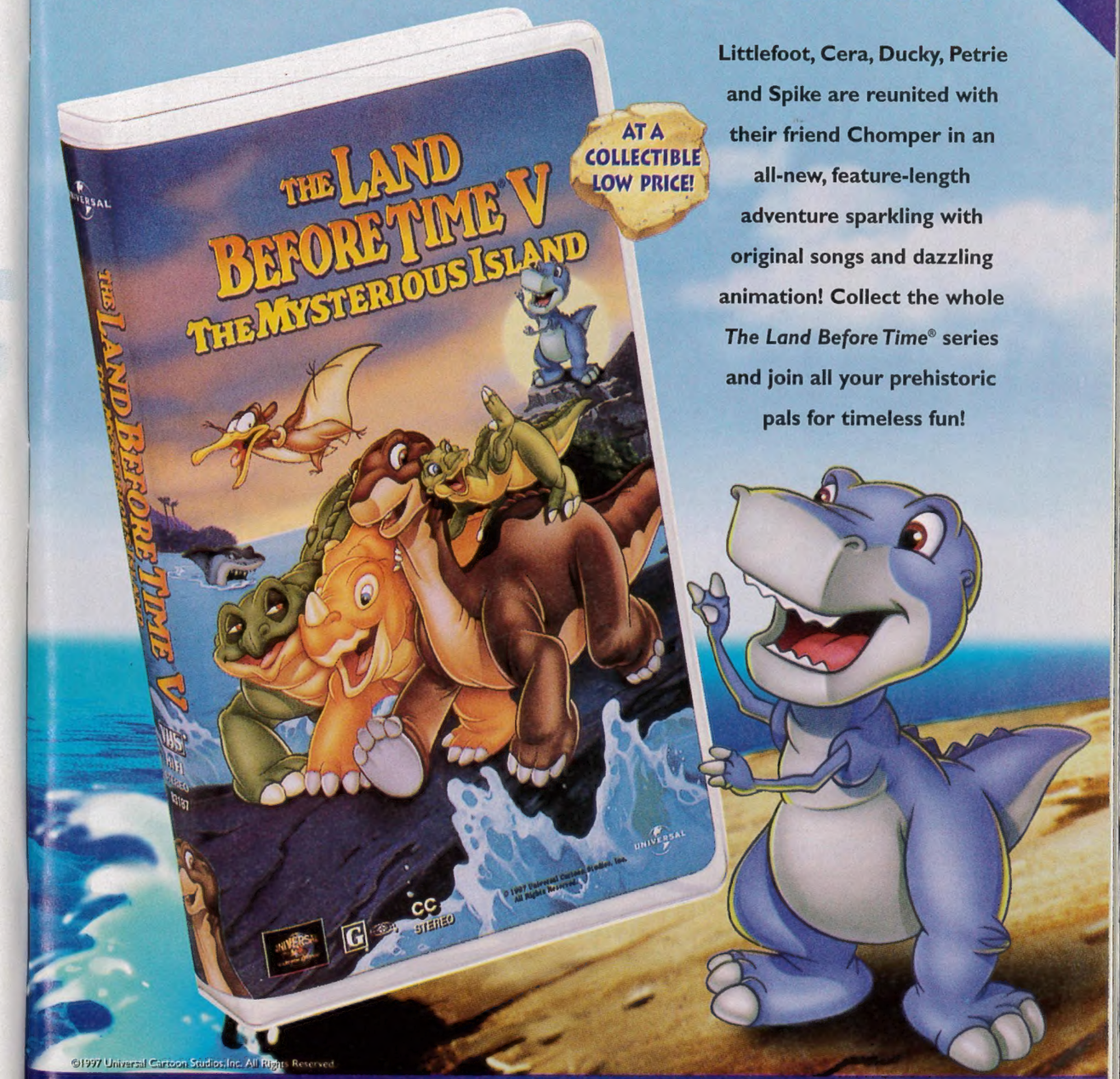

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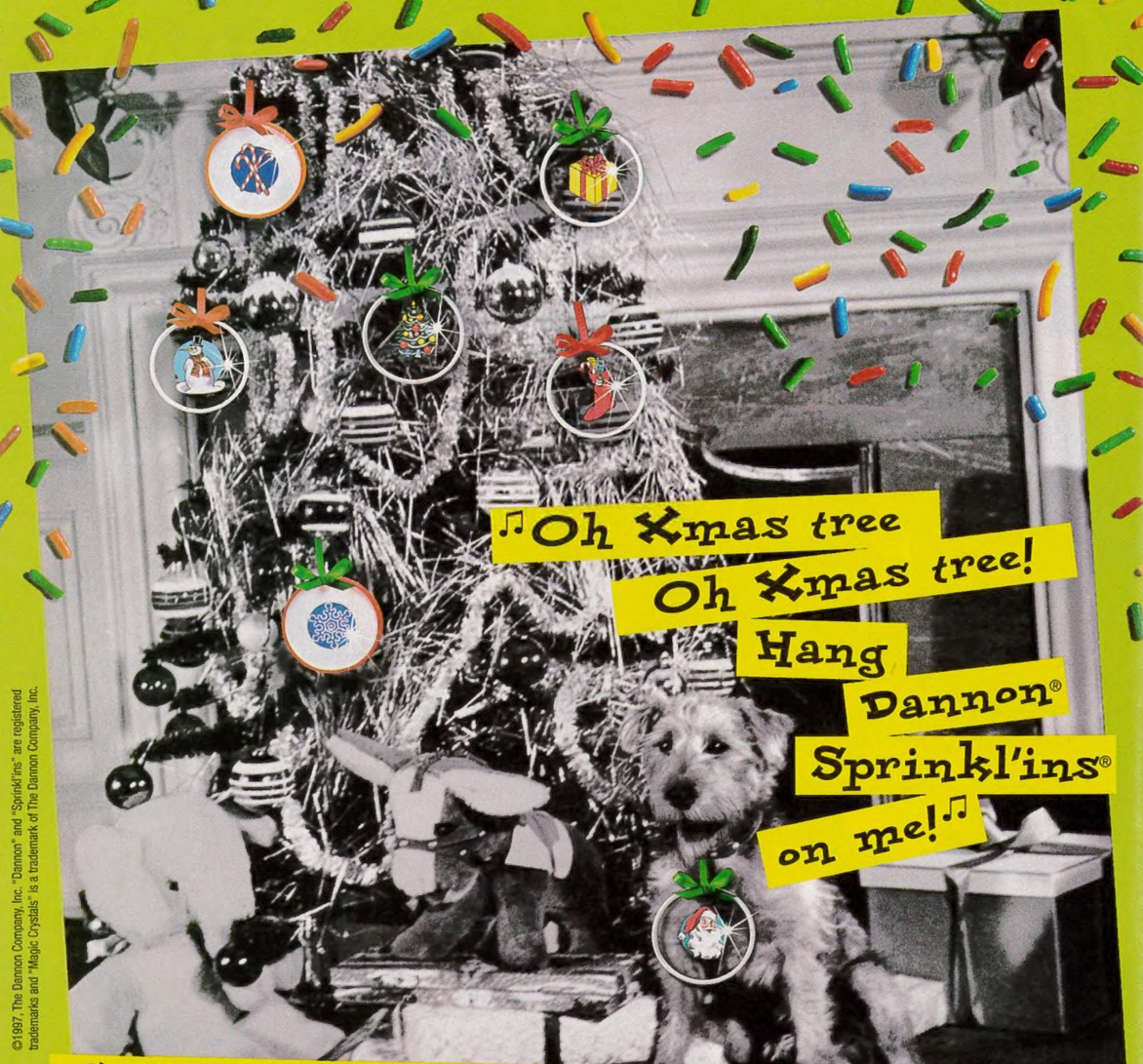

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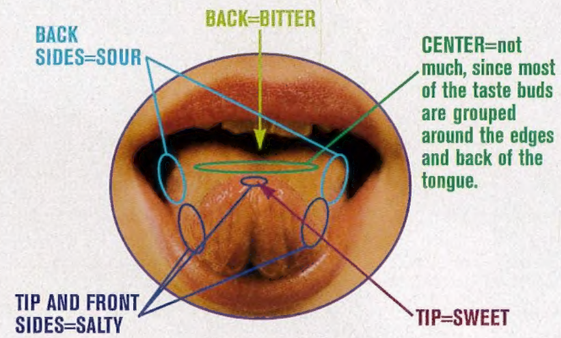
Lick This UP

by David Lewman

Real

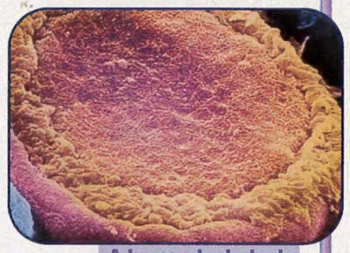
And now an article that really sticks out—a guide to your tongue.

- The tongue is made up of two sets of muscles that are divided in half lengthwise by a groove called the median furrow.
- You experience four* basic tastes, each on a different area of the tongue.



* Japanese scientists believe the tongue can pick up a fifth taste called *umami*, which means "savory" or "delicious."

- The bumps on your tongue come in four shapes. They look like cones, mushrooms, leaves, and little hills with moats around them.
- There are taste buds inside all the bumps—except the cones. The cones are there to help your tongue grip food, so you can move it around to chew and swallow.
- Kids have about 10,000 taste buds. Babies have more—they need extras because they're just learning about flavor. Older people have fewer taste buds, because after age 45, taste buds are not replaced as quickly when they wear out.



A human taste bud.

- Each taste bud is so small that 60 of them could fit on the period at the end of this sentence.
- If your tongue is dry, you can't taste anything. Saliva helps flavors penetrate tiny holes in the tongue's bumps to reach the taste buds.
- If you hold your nose, food is harder to taste. That's because much of the flavor of food comes from smell, not just from what happens on your tongue.
- Two out of three people are born with the ability to roll up the sides of their tongue.
- Repeating a tongue twister has never tied anyone's tongue in a knot.

Tasty Tidbits

Here are some flavorful facts.

Scientists who study flavors have come up with all kinds of names to describe different flavors. Here are some: barnyardy, wet dog-like, gym locker-like, and baby bib-like. For example, baby bib-like is used to describe a milky taste.

Toothpaste knocks out your sweet taste buds for a while, making orange juice taste very sour right after you brush your teeth.

The miracle fruit, a large, red berry native to West Africa, really does work miracles. Placing the berry on your tongue makes sour food taste sweet for up to three hours.

Chewing the leaves of an Indian plant named *gymnema sylvestre* takes away the tongue's ability to taste anything sweet for a couple of hours. It can make sugar taste like sand.

So dessert tastes like a desert?

Eat These Words

We dipped into the dictionary to find foods with interesting stories behind their names. Then we served them up in this memorable meal. Dig in!

Real

The woof is in the pudding.

tapioca pudding
Tapioca comes from *typyóca*, a word used by native people of Brazil. It means "squeeze out the dregs." (Dregs are the sediment contained in a liquid, and tapioca, a starch, makes the pudding seem grainy.)

coconut topping
The word *coconut* comes from an old Portuguese word, *coco*, which means "goblin" or "bogeyman." People thought the three indentations at the bottom of a coconut shell looked like a spooky face.

pie
The word *pie* probably comes from *magpie*, the name of a bird. Just as a pie is stuffed with different fillings, the magpie is known for collecting all kinds of things and hoarding them in its nest.

hot dog
The hot dog supposedly got its name in 1906, when a famous cartoonist named T.A. "Tad" Dorgan drew a picture of sausages known as "Red Hot Dachshunds." He depicted them as dogs on long buns and captioned the drawing "Hot Dogs."

bun
Some people think *bun* comes from the Old French word, *bugne*, meaning "a bump on the head" or "a boil."

linguine
This Italian word means "little tongues."

punch
Some people think the word *punch* comes from *panch*, the Hindi word for five, and refers to the five ingredients that were traditionally in punch.

lasagna
Lasagna comes from the ancient Greek word *lasanon*, which means "chamber pot" (a container used like a toilet). The Romans later jokingly used this word, which became *lasanum*, to refer to a large cooking pot. Eventually, the word turned into the modern Italian word for the dish of flat noodles (cooked in a large pot) and sauce.

milk
This word can be traced back to a time before written language, when the prefix *melg-* meant "wiping" or "stroking"–the action used in milking a cow.

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ham sandwich on pumpernickel bread

The word *sandwich* was coined in 1762, when John Montagu, the fourth Earl of Sandwich (a region in England) couldn't tear himself away from a late-night card game to eat. He asked a servant to bring him slices of cold meat and cheese between two pieces of bread, so he could eat while keeping one hand free for playing cards. People soon started calling the snacks "sandwiches."

ham comes from the Germanic word for bent or crooked, and it used to mean the back of the knee. Eventually, *ham* came to refer to a person's thigh–and later came to mean the thigh of an animal, especially a pig.

pumpernickel bread is thought to come from the German words *pumpern*, which means "to fart," and *Nickel*, which means "devil." Supposedly this dark bread is coarse enough to produce gas of devilish proportions.

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Food on the Run

Real

Giovanni Calabrese and Artie Petrossian are costume designers at Custom Creations in Metuchen, New Jersey. They've made costumes of a huge slice of pizza, a six-foot sub sandwich, and a big hot dog that people wear to promote restaurants and other businesses. **Rory Evans** got the dish on what it takes to make wearable food.

NICKELODEON MAGAZINE: What materials do you use to make the costumes?

ARTIE PETROSSIAN: Mostly foam. Depending on what the costumes will be used for, we may also coat them with latex rubber, plush [fake fur], or other fabrics.

How did you learn to make them?

GIOVANNI CALABRESE: I taught myself. I started making costumes in college for Halloween. My first one was an armchair.

ARTIE: I was an airbrush artist, and one day Giovanni showed up at my shop. He asked me to paint a four-foot foam fish for him. I thought he was the weirdest person in the world. Then I got to know him, and we started working together.

How heavy and hot are the costumes?

GIOVANNI: They weigh three to fifteen pounds. In the summer, they can get hot. But for an extra fee, we'll put in battery-powered circulation fans—they're like air-conditioning.

When you're making a costume, how do you know where to put the eyes?

ARTIE: One of us always has to try the costume on, so the other one can cut the eyes.

GIOVANNI: For the pizza, the eyeholes went through a big piece of pepperoni.

Such *nice* eyes.

What's your favorite food, and have you ever made a costume out of it?

GIOVANNI: My favorite food is lasagna, but I've never made one. There's no demand for lasagna costumes.

TO GO: Giovanni *(above)* as a cappuccino mug; Artie *(right)* poses as a pumpernickel bagel, with a cream-cheese nose.

ARTIE: I like sushi, but we've never made that, either. But I was cutting up pieces of foam the other day, and they looked a lot like sushi.

Do you make any nonfood costumes?

ARTIE: Yes. We made a robot costume for a car dealership.

GIOVANNI: We've also made a whistle, a dolphin, an octopus—right now we're making the head of a Trojan warrior for a high-school mascot.

Does working on food costumes make you hungry?

GIOVANNI: I'm hungry all the time.

If someone wearing one of your costumes was confronted by a hungry mob, which costume would be best for running away?

ARTIE: The apple.

GIOVANNI: The French crepe, too.

ARTIE: Any costume that's above the waist will free up your legs and make it easy to run. But the eyeholes allow you only to see straight ahead, so if the road curves, you'll have problems.

PIZZA FACE: Artie dressed as a pepperoni slice.

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Hey, kids! Are you ready for some football? I spent the whole day at the stadium with the mouth. And, boy, did he get hungry! Can you find me feeding the mouth in at least 14 different ways? You'll see me passing, shooting, tackling, launching, balancing, cheering, floating, announcing, punting, calling, scoring, flipping, tossing and blowing those little O's with the big taste into the mouth.

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GO BEE!

BIG TASTE

FEED ME MORE

Grease Is the Word

Turn your at-home dining into a fast-food experience with these tips.

Service

- Yell "Next!" every five seconds.
- Draw cartoon characters on the cups.
- Lock the bathroom. If someone has to go, make them wait five minutes while you get the key, which is attached to a large wooden block.
- Get families with screaming children to crowd your dining room.
- Have kids pull up on their bikes outside a window for "drive-thru" service. Talk through a wastebasket when taking their orders.
- Make your customers carry their food to the table on wet plastic trays.
- Wear a button that reads ASK ME ABOUT SOME COMPLICATED CONTEST THAT I REALLY DON'T WANT TO EXPLAIN.

Food

- Wrap everything in paper. Tell people you do this to help save the environment.
- Serve soda in a cup 20 times larger than the largest known human bladder.
- Call every sandwich "deluxe."
- Offer ketchup, mayonnaise, and mustard in little packets.
- Give kids their meals (and a small, breakable plastic toy) in cardboard boxes.

Decor

- Mop the floor with soda to achieve maximum stickiness.
- Lightly dust the tables with salt and pepper.
- Nail the chairs to the floor.
- Fill your den with colorful plastic balls. Put the little kids in there.
- Put up a plaque with a picture of the "employee of the month."
- Install fluorescent lights and play Muzak.
- Hang up signs that read:

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Real You ART What You Eat

Eating food is easy, but turning it into art is another story. We tracked down some artists whose works show very good taste.

research by Oliver Jones

GUMMING IT UP

Jamie Marraccini's friends helped him chew the nearly 3,000 pieces of gum that went into his 1997 sculpture, "Home" *(right)*. Jamie, who lives in Roanoke, Virginia, has been a bubble-gum artist for 10 years (and has only two fillings). His mother has suggested he work with something other than ABC (Already Been Chewed) gum, but Jamie, a lifelong chewer, said he's stuck on it.

LOOKING EXTRA SHARP

Sarah Baumann, of Milford, Ohio, whittled away at a 640-pound block of cheddar cheese to make a sculpture of a Green Bay Packer wide receiver. The work was on display at the Packers' Hall of Fame in Green Bay, Wisconsin, until the smell got to be too much. Then the outer layer was cut off, and the edible portion was donated to charity.

Some of this art is hard to swallow.

MARTHA TAKES A DIP

Last summer, Jason Mecier made a portrait of Martha Stewart out of raw vegetables and dip. Jason, who lives in San Francisco, California, has also cooked up portraits of the cast of *Melrose Place* out of beans and noodles, and a portrait of Dolly Parton out of candy.

A BIG *MOOSE*-UNDERSTANDING

When Brooklyn, New York, artist Eric Magnuson was a kid, he thought the dessert called chocolate mousse was really a moose covered in chocolate. Years later, Eric turned this mistake into a sculpture called "Chocolate Moose." He coated a life-size foam moose with chocolate (mixed with wax to keep it from melting) and added glass eyes and plastic antlers. When the moose was shown at a gallery in 1995, some people liked it so much, they licked it.

CONTINUED →

MORE

You ART What You Eat

BROWNIE POINTS

A nutty welcome awaited the First Family when they vacationed in Edgartown, Massachusetts, last summer. Franco Ricardo, of Warwick, Rhode Island, and Laura Palmer, of Boston, Massachusetts, had sculpted a brownie of President Clinton and family for a local supermarket. This executive-size brownie had an estimated 3.6 million calories.

IKE CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S BUTTER

It took Eddie Shank, of Enola, Pennsylvania, 100 hours in a 40-degree cooler to carve 800 pounds of butter into a sculpture of 37th U.S. President (and former dairy farmer) Dwight D. "Ike" Eisenhower feeding an Angus Aberdeen calf. The sculpture was displayed at the 1996 Pennsylvania Farm Show.

STUFF

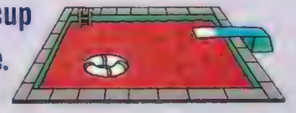
Can't face another day of opening the refrigerator to the sight of stale fruitcake and dried-out turkey? Jennifer Nichols solved that problem by computing how much holiday food you could store in some spaces other than your refrigerator.

Real

The average bathtub could hold 5,325 half-cup servings of gravy.

The back of a station wagon could hold 938 loaf-size fruitcakes.

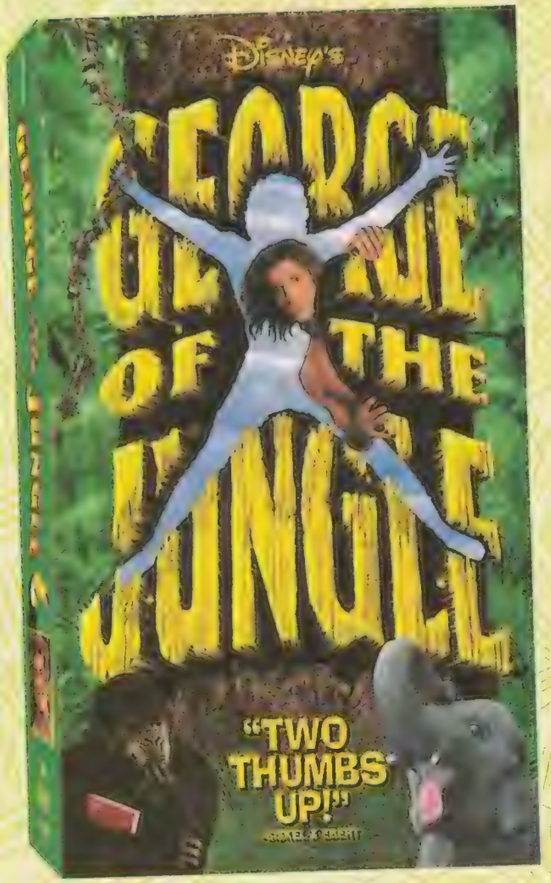
An Olympic-size swimming pool could hold 23,392,600 half-cup servings of cranberry sauce.



The Grand Canyon could hold 36,787,500,000,000,000 (that's more than 36 quadrillion) half-cup servings of creamed spinach.

The Empire State Building could store 49,333,333 turkeys.

WATCH OUT... For That Video! Own It December 2!



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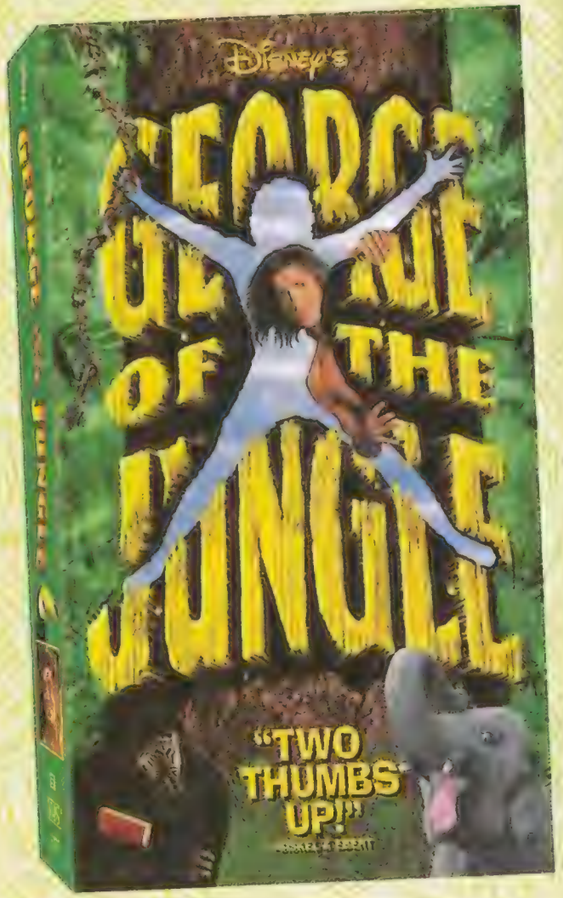

PG

Walt Disney Home Video distributed by Buena Vista Home Entertainment, Burbank, California 91521. Printed in U.S.A. ©Disney Enterprises, Inc.

Walt Disney HOME VIDEO

What goes on in your kitchen when you're not there? Just like characters on soap operas, utensils and food might be leading really exciting lives. Find out now on...

The Young and the Stainless

The Dish Drain Lounge. Refrigerator magnet Marc Memo meets with butter knife Marge O'Reen.

MARC Marry me, Marge...I'll stick to you as if you were a brand new Frigidaire.

MARGE But how do I know you're not just after me for my dough?

MARC It's *you* I want, Marge. I'm not just buttering you up.

MARGE I *will* marry you! You're so magnetic, I just can't resist you!

MARC Let's not wait, Marge. We'll marry tomorrow!

Utensil Memorial Hospital, the next morning. Dr. Steele Fork, head of metallurgy, meets with his star patient, Egg.

DR. FORK Egg, I'm afraid I have some bad news.

EGG Break it to me, Doc.

DR. FORK You have three minutes to live. There's no sunny side to it. You're a three-minute egg.

VOICE OVER HOSPITAL P.A. SYSTEM Dr. Muffin Tin, you're due in bran surgery.

EGG But I...I'm supposed to sing at Marc Memo's wedding tonight. It's my only chance to prove that Egg doesn't need Ham anymore. First she dumped me to go solo, and if I don't show up, Ham will even steal my act. You've got to help me, Doc.

DR. FORK Your only hope to beat this thing is a hard-boiled removal.

EGG Then let's do it. Get yourself dish-washed and whisk me into surgery right now.

Sterling Silver Manor. Marge O'Reen answers the door to find her ex-boyfriend, Trevor Spoon.

MARGE Oh, it's *you!*

TREVOR Marge, you can't go ahead with the wedding.

MARGE It's over between us. And anyway, I'm busy entertaining guests from fine China right now.

TREVOR Take me back, Marge. With you by my side, I can straighten myself out.

MARGE You're just a teaspoon, Trev, but for some reason you started hitting the ice cream. And you couldn't handle it.

TREVOR Don't say it!

MARGE Because the ice cream was too hard! And you got all bent out of shape!

TREVOR *(crying)* Yes...I admit it! I should have stuck to tea or applesauce!

MARGE Go stir up trouble someplace else....

CONTINUED →

MORE Young and Stainless

TREVOR Marge, you may be sharp, but you never *could* cut the mustard! You haven't seen the last of me. Just watch and see—you're in for a measure of trouble.

Utensil Memorial Hospital. Ms. Ham Bone barges into Egg's room.

EGG Ham! How did you get in here?

HAM Just came by to see how you're doing. You look rotten, Egg. You can't possibly make it to the wedding tonight. I told them I'll take the stage for you.

EGG Don't you dare! I'm going to be fine. I am...

Egg begins to break from the stress.

VOICE OVER HOSPITAL P.A. SYSTEM Dr. Fork, Egg is cracking up....

Holey Colander Chapel. Reverend Duncan Ladle performs the wedding ceremony of Marge and Marc. Backstage, Ham is warming up in the microwave.

REV. LADLE Do you, Marge O'Reen, take this magnet, Marc Memo, to be your lawfully wedded husband, for rich foods and for pouring?

MARGE Yes...I dough, I mean, do.

REV. LADLE And do you, Marc, take Marge O'Reen to be your lawfully wedded knife?

MARC I do!

There's not a dry ice tray in the house.

REV. LADLE If anyone in this kitchen thinks we should not join these two in holy Ziploc, speak now or forever hold your peas.

Trevor bursts into the chapel with his bodyguards: an extra-large soup spoon, a shish-kebab skewer, and a steak knife.

TREVOR Ha ha! You lovebirds are cooked now! I'm here to stop this wedding!

MARGE Trevor, no! If you ruin this big day for me, I'll make sure you never make it out of the dishwasher!

MARC I'll take care of this, Marge.

Marc turns toward Trevor's bodyguards. They are unable to resist his magnetic force and fly toward him.

MARC Your tine is up, Trevor! Now on with the party!

REV. LADLE I now pronounce you magnet and knife.

Suddenly the timer goes off in the microwave, but Egg is holding the door shut and won't let Ham out.

EGG I know you're in there. Ham, you pig! You're not going to ruin my chance at the big time.

Suddenly Egg collapses into a runny omelette. Dr. Steele Fork rushes to his side.

DR. FORK Stand back. Egg has taken a real beating today. Let's get him into a bowl.

As Dr. Fork whips some air into Egg, Ham breaks down in tears.

HAM Egg, I'm sorry. Listen, we'll start over, a new act: Ham and Egg together. We're on a roll. We'll start tonight.

EGG I don't know—I'm really fried. What do you think, Doctor?

DR. FORK Egg, this is your big break. Good luck.

Egg and Ham take the stage to a standing ovation.

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An A-Peeling Quiz

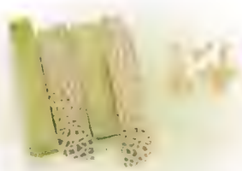
These two pages are filled with peels and seeds. Can you figure out which fruits or vegetables they came from? We did the first one and gave you some clues.

Answers on page 82.

1. *There's a kernel of truth here.*

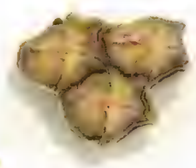
corn

2. *Don't cry if you can't guess it.*



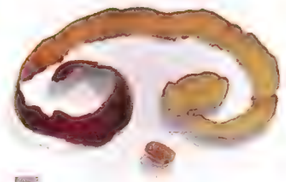
3. *Who says you can't run away and get married?*

4. *Keep the doctor away.*



5. *Aloha, fruit lovers!*

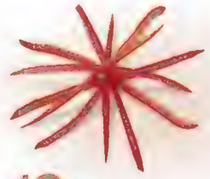
6. *This will give you the slip.*



7. *Stick in your thumb and pull out a...*

8. *Right below the "head"-tarine is the...*

9. *It only has eyes for you.*



10. *Not to be confused with blue salt.*

11. *You can have one on Saturday night.*

Aisle Be Seeing You

by David Lewman

All that endless holiday food shopping at the grocery store can get boring. Follow these tips to put the "super" back in supermarket.

Before your parent starts pushing the cart, lie down underneath it and pretend to inspect its body and wheels. Reject two or three carts before deciding one is safe to drive.

Pet the cans of dog and cat food. If someone asks what you're doing, explain that the sign told you to "PET FOOD."

Conduct an informal poll of shoppers to find out who's the most popular: the Jolly Green Giant, the Pillsbury Doughboy, Betty Crocker, Mrs. Paul, Uncle Ben, or Mrs. Butterworth.

If your store has a live lobster case, pretend it's an aquarium. Ask people if they'd like to buy tickets to see the lobster show. Tell them the show will start in 15 minutes.

Stand at the intersection of busy aisles and direct traffic.

Open a freezer door and write in the fog on the inside of the door: HELP, I'M BEING HELD HOSTAGE BY A FROZEN PIZZA. (Remember to write backwards.)

Appoint yourself Express Lane Cop: "I'm sorry, ma'am, you have 13 items, not 12. The penalty is one candy bar, payable to me."

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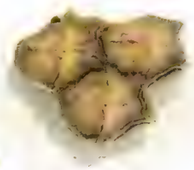
corn

2. *Don't cry if you can't guess it.*

3. *Wh*
away

4. *Ke*



5. *Aloha, fruit lovers!*

7. *Stick in your thumb and pull out a...*

8.

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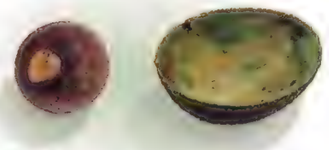
10. *Not to be confused with blue salt.*

11. *You can have one on Saturday night.*

12. *The key to this one is its wee size.*



13. *Holy guacamole!*

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Appoint yourself Express Lane Cop: "I'm sorry, ma'am, you have 13 items, not 12. The penalty is one candy bar, payable to me."

When the bagger asks if you want paper or plastic, say "plapper" and see what you get. If they ask again, say "paystick."

What's the Dish?

Can you help this kid figure out what foods her waiter is really talking about? **Translations (answers) on page 82.**

by John-Ryan Hevron

For *breakfast*, our chef has concocted a delicious, chilled bovine liquid over a bed of delicate brown maize crisps, served in a ceramic bowl and seasoned to taste with crystallized sucrose.

What?

And as a *side order to breakfast*, we offer whole-wheat bread squares prepared in our special open-coil oven, slathered with solidified dairy spread and select crushed berries.

Errr...

Or for *lunch*, can I interest you in a medley of crispy bread triangles with a savory cheese stuffing, skillet-browned and garnished with our famous tomato slice?

I'm not sure...

For a *light lunch*, perhaps you'd like our crushed nuts and mashed preserves on rectangular-cut, American-style baked goods?

Umm...

Or are you in the mood for a *casual dinner*? Might I suggest the flame-treated beef rounds, served on a bifurcated fluffy bread product encrusted with sesame seeds, and a side of deep-fried tuber strips?

Well...

Our *dinner* special is tender little tubes of pasta smothered in a boldly colored, velvety cream sauce made from the finest curdled and aged dairy products.

Let's see...

And for *dessert*, perhaps you'd enjoy skinned apple slices prepared in a sugar mélange, spiked with a dash of ground cinnamon, lovingly cradled in a circular flaky pastry shell, topped by an aerated crust, and baked to perfection.

So...what would you like?

Here's *what I'd like:* For you to communicate more succinctly, or I'm going to withhold the gratuity, express a negative opinion of this establishment to the manager, and transport myself out of here on my two-wheeled conveyance. Do you comprehend?

It's clear as a bell pepper.

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Please Pass the Wind

Are you tired of being told to get your elbows off the table? Check out what passed for polite mealtime behavior in the past with this table manners timetable.

by Elizabeth Clasing

What about under-the-table manners?

c.* 6000 BC Prehistoric people make the first known knives from pieces of flint. The knives are used only for butchering and as weapons; fingers are the preferred eating utensils.

c. 500 BC In Asia, knives are used in the kitchen, but the Chinese philosopher Confucius advises the "honorable man" to allow no knives at his table. Chopsticks become the utensil of choice in China by 400 BC.

c. 500 BC–AD 500 Romans consider it good manners to toss bones, shells, food, and other mealtime trash under the table.

AD 600s The first forks are used at wealthy tables in the Middle East.

*c. stands for *circa*, which means "around the time of."

c. 1000 The foreign bride of a Venetian noble shocks Europe when she refuses to eat with her fingers and instead produces a fork, probably brought from her homeland, Byzantium. When the princess gets sick and dies soon afterward, people blame the tragedy on her bizarre table manners. Forks don't really catch on in Europe for another 600 to 700 years.

c. 1200 to 1500 In Europe, diners share cups, spoons, and knives. Well-mannered guests always wipe the knife—on slices of old bread, the tablecloth, or their clothes—before passing it. Instead of using plates, people eat off slabs of stale bread called trenchers.

c. 1500 Wealthy European diners begin using wooden plates. Acceptable table manners include blowing your nose into your hand, falling asleep at the table, and drinking straight from a jug.

"Cleanse not your teeth with the tablecloth."

A British expert on etiquette advises: a display when removing hair, insects, or eable things from your food. Place them the edge of your plate."

y fancy dining now requires so many nsils—including asparagus tongs, oyster shovels, and crumb knives—that a silver-acturer's formal place setting for one 31 utensils.

erican author Emily Post writes her e to etiquette for young housewives. r tips, Emily tells parents to teach all eat right-handed. (Such advice is now ng-headed.)

uring a lifetime, the average American about 41,000 hours eating meals. That's a lot of time to mind your manners.

Please Pass the Wind

Are you tired of being told to get your elbows off the table? Check out what passed for polite mealtime behavior in the past with this table manners timetable.

by Elizabeth Clasing

What about under-the-table manners?

c.* 6000 BC Prehistoric people make
known knives from pieces of flint. The k
used only for butchering and as weapon
are the preferred eating utensils.

c. 500 BC In Asia, knives are used in
kitchen, but the Chinese philosopher Co
advises the "honorable man" to allow no
his table. Chopsticks become the utensil
in China by 400 BC.

c. 500 BC–AD 500 Romans consider
manners to toss bones, shells, food, and
mealtime trash under the table.

AD 600s The first forks are used at we
tables in the Middle East.

*c. stands for *circa*, which means "around the time

1526 A Dutch scholar writes the book *On Good Manners for Boys.* His advice: "If you happen to have eaten something that cannot be swallowed, you should discreetly turn around and toss it somewhere." He also recommends passing wind or vomiting if you feel like it (although he does suggest coughing to cover up the noise of a really loud fart).

1600s European diners add a second pointed knife to the table to help hold food steady and bring it to the mouth, while the other knife cuts. Forks are used mainly for serving. Meanwhile, in Plymouth, Massachusetts, courteous Pilgrim children often stand during a meal to show respect for their elders.

1744 Sixteen-year-old George Washington writes a guide to good behavior. One of his 110 rules: "Cleanse not your teeth with the tablecloth."

Late 1800s A British expert on etiquette advises: "Never make a display when removing hair, insects, or other disagreeable things from your food. Place them quietly under the edge of your plate."

1898 Truly fancy dining now requires so many different utensils—including asparagus tongs, oyster forks, sugar shovels, and crumb knives—that a silverware manufacturer's formal place setting for one person has 131 utensils.

1922 American author Emily Post writes her famous guide to etiquette for young housewives. Among other tips, Emily tells parents to teach all children to eat right-handed. (Such advice is now seen as wrong-headed.)

Today During a lifetime, the average American will spend about 41,000 hours eating meals. That's a lot of time to mind your manners.

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Real

Make Mine Rare

Sometimes getting a meal is more complicated than a trip to the supermarket. Robin Sayers went to great lengths to find out about some hard-to-get foods...and some daring shoppers.

"Spit, Please" Soup

About 1,000 years ago in China, someone had the idea of making a soup from the nests of small birds called swiftlets. The nests, which are found in huge caves, are woven out of spit that comes from underneath the male swiftlet's tongue. Although the nests taste bland, they are thought to have medicinal qualities, and men risk their lives to get them.

Collectors climb up bamboo scaffolding attached to cave walls hundreds of feet tall to capture the nests. As bats swarm though the dark cavern, the men try to keep their balance and pry the nests from the walls.

The prices people pay for swiftlet nests keep the climbers going–15 pounds of top-quality nests sell for $10,000 in Hong Kong. They may get even more expensive as some governments begin protecting the swiftlets and their eggs.

I'll have a leg please.

Fangs for the Meal

In the Amazon rain forest of Brazil and Venezuela, tarantulas grow big–with a leg span of up to 11 inches across. Their long fangs can produce an extremely painful bite, but to an Amazonian, that's a risk worth taking for a special meal.

A hunter must bring the tarantula home alive, since it will rot if not cooked as soon as it's killed. The hunter lures a tarantula out of its underground tunnel with a piece of vine, then grabs the spider, wraps it in a large leaf, and carries it back to camp. Almost every part of the spider is eaten: The eggs from inside the abdomen are wrapped in a leaf and roasted; the body is thrown into the fire to singe off the hair and cook the meat, which is said to taste like crab; the legs are also grilled and eaten. After the feast, the tarantula's fangs are used as toothpicks.

Continued →

Eggs-Over-Very-Difficult

Some people who live in Denmark's Faroe Islands aren't satisfied with ordinary, supermarket-variety chicken eggs. They crave the stronger-flavored eggs of the fulmar, a seabird that nests along the islands' towering cliffs. During a few days each May, daring villagers go on a high-stakes egg hunt. To reach the nests, they scale cliffs as high as 800 feet or lower themselves with ropes from the cliff tops. Then they climb back to level ground with their loot, which they cook like regular hen eggs. Luckily, the small number of eggs that people take has not threatened the fulmar's survival.

Nice Price for Spice

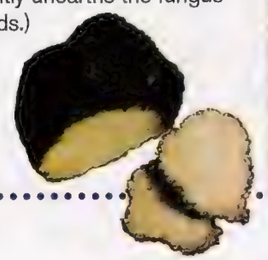
Saffron is a pungent spice made from the crocus flower's bright orange stigma–the long, sticky structure at the center of a flower. At $3,000 a pound, saffron is the most expensive seasoning in the world. That's because the stigmas must be picked by hand, and it can take 14,000 of them to make just one ounce of saffron.

In Spain, where the most popular saffron is grown, the women who harvest the stigmas have only seven to 10 days to pluck them out before the flowers finish blooming. Fortunately, only a tiny amount of saffron is needed to spice up a dish.

Pigging Out

Lots of people go wild for truffles, but they'd probably go crazy if they had to collect them. A truffle is a wrinkly skinned fungus prized for its pungent, sometimes garlicky taste. It grows near tree roots, three to 12 inches underground, in France, Italy, and Spain. Finding truffles is not easy–unless you're a pig. Female pigs are trained to sniff out the fungus, which contains a chemical also found in male pig saliva. A truffle hunter follows the pig through the woods until she locates a truffle. Then the hunter moves fast to keep her from gobbling it up, and gently unearths the fungus with a stick. (It will rot if touched by hands.)

Some people use dogs instead of pigs, since dogs are less likely to eat up the prize. Still, it can take hours to nab just one truffle–which explains why they cost as much as $550 a pound.



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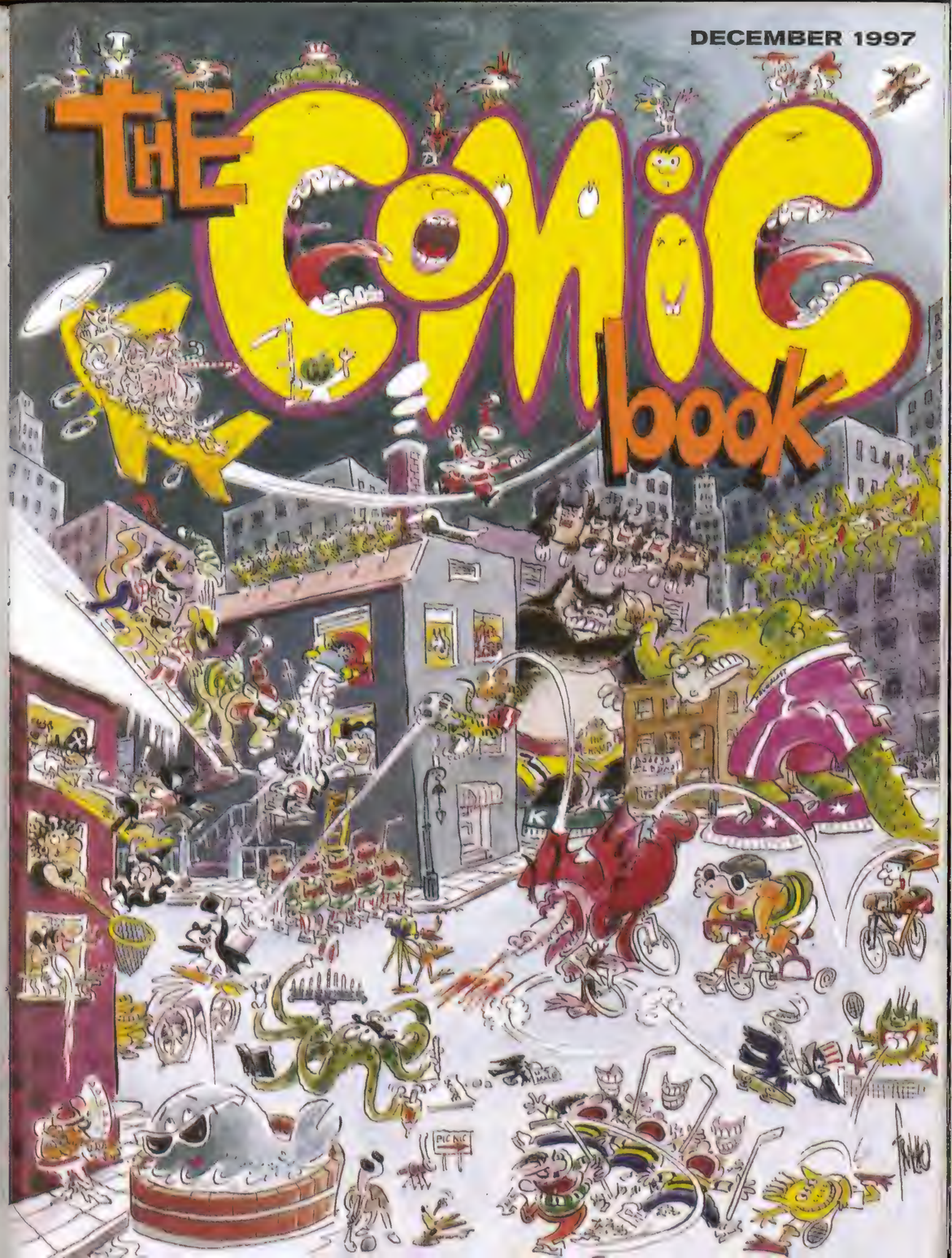

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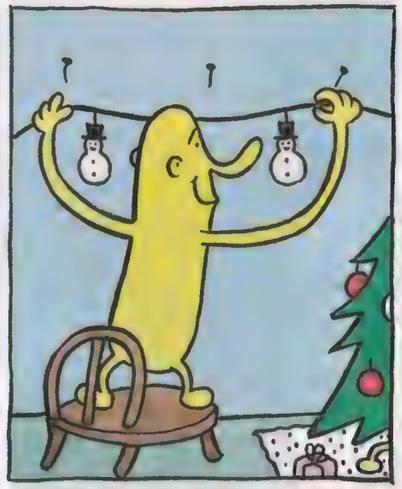
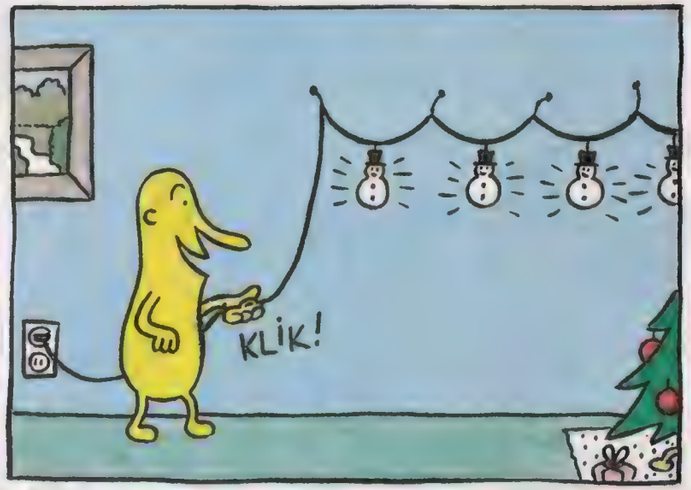
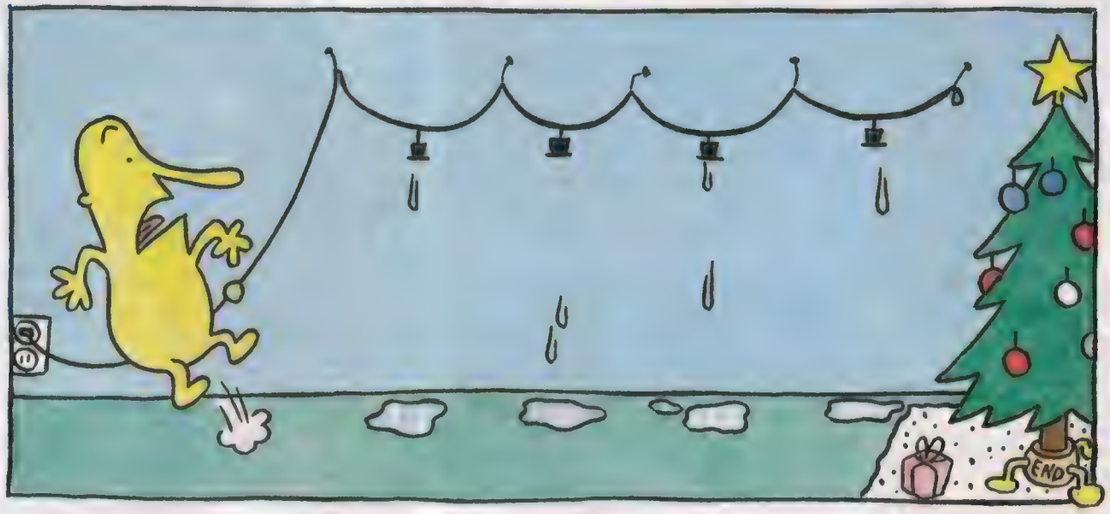
THE X-MAS ORNAMENT INCIDENT



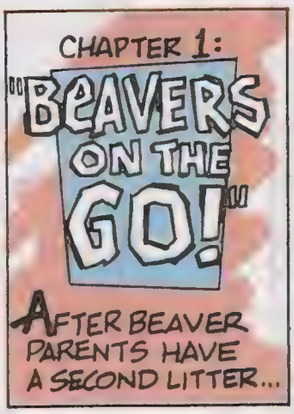


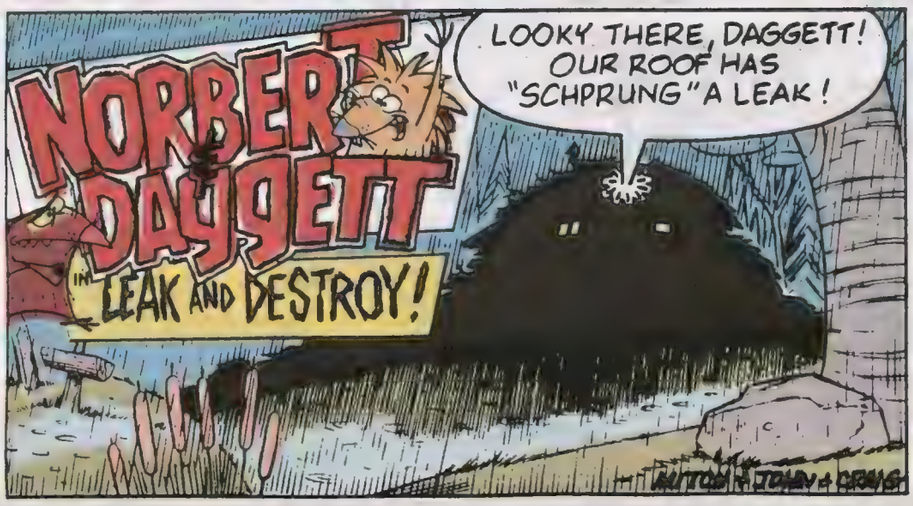


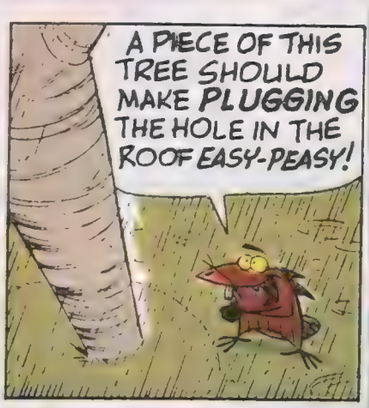
The ANGRY BEAVERS

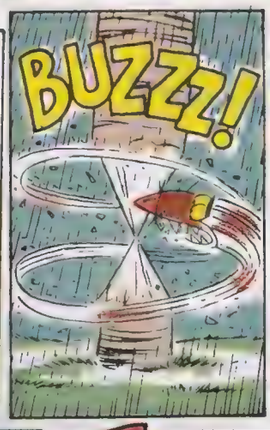
BY MITCH SCHAUER

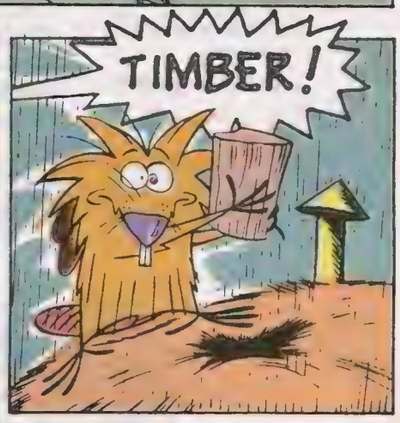
NORBERT DAGGETT

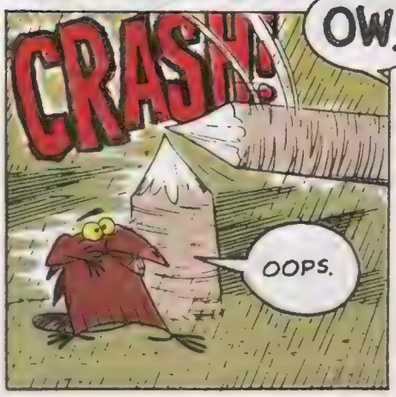


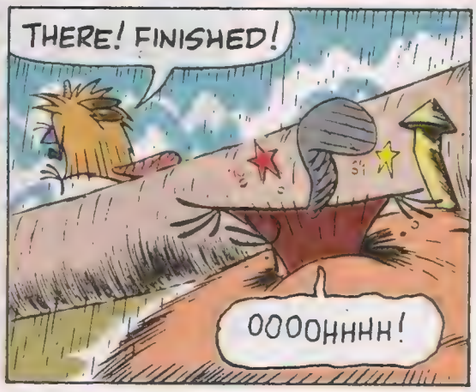












PULLOUT WRAPPING PAPER

Pry open the staples. (You may want an adult to help you.) Then carefully remove the wrapping paper.

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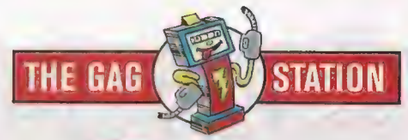


"It belonged to your great-great-great-great-great-grandfather."

THE GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT

HOW TO DRAW

with the Cartoon Worm

1. BOO! LET'S CONTINUE DRAWING MONSTERS THIS MONTH.

MAKE SURE THAT I LOOK GOOD AND UGLY!

NO PROBLEM!

2. LET'S TURN SOME ORDINARY-LOOKING CHARACTERS INTO HIDEOUS, REPULSIVE MONSTERS. FUN!

EXAMPLE:

FROM NICK...

...TO ICK!

NICE BOY

BIG MONSTER EYE

POINTY EARS

FANGS

MONSTER STAINS

STUBBLE ON HEAD

UGLY NOSE

BIG MONSTER TONGUE

3. OKAY, YOU TRY NOW.

FROM MIMI...

...TO SCREAM!

FROM MR. AIR...

...TO MR. SCARE!

4. ADD SOME EXTRA BODY PARTS TO YOUR CARTOON AND YOU'VE GOT AN INSTANT MONSTER.

TWO HEADS:

FOUR LEGS:

LET'S DANCE!

YOUR TURN. GIVE THE TWO-HEADED MAN EXTRA EARS AND THE FOUR-LEGGED MONSTER EXTRA ARMS:

Cartoon MONSTERS

Part two

©Kaz '97

5. WHAT I'VE GOT HERE ARE SOME LEFTOVER MONSTER PARTS. MIX AND MATCH THEM TOGETHER INTO A NEW MONSTER. USE SOME TRACING PAPER.

HEADS

BODIES

EYES

EARS

LEGS

NOSES

ARMS

MOUTHS

6. LOOK AT ME! I'M A MONSTER NOW!

COOL. I WANT TO BE A MONSTER TOO!

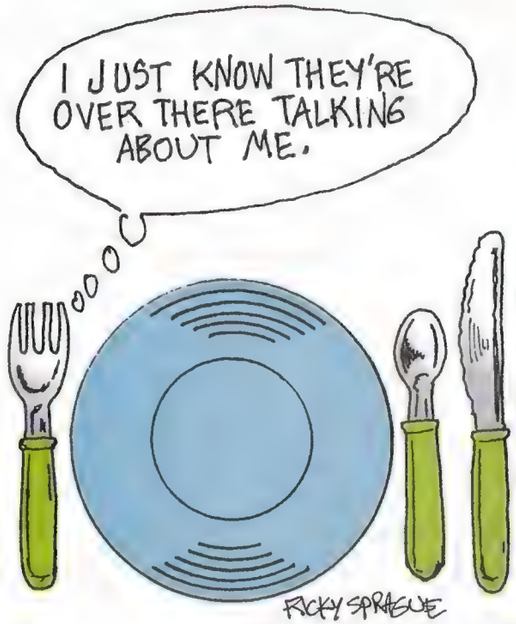
7. HEY, KIDS. USE SOME OF THE FEATURES ABOVE AND DRAW BRAINY A NEW MONSTER FACE.

I'M READY FOR MY CLOSE-UP!

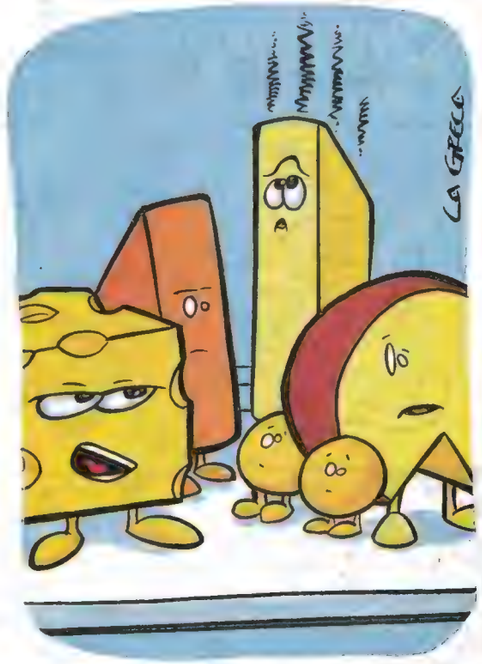
Happy Monster-Making!

THE GAG STATION

A few cartoonists fed us some gags about food



"His family is into health food—he just licks the wood!"



"All right, who got cut?!"

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STAY TUNED FOR MORE OF SHORTY'S STORY...

THE NBA PRESENTS the continuing ADVENTURES of.. the FULL COURT 5

EPISODE 2: TIME TO TEAM UP

MY mom says I'll play in the WNBA! ☆

As Shorty is walking home holding the RED FLYER, 2 girls from his homeroom walk up. POINTING to the flyer, NINA asks, "Hey Shorty, what's up?"

JOAN NINA

Yeah I bet I can dribble circles around you!

"THE BIG BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT" replies Shorty. "Do you girls know anybody I could team up with?" "HOW ABOUT US?" answers Nina. "OKay, OKay!" says Shorty. But we still need 2 more players. Just then, a paper boy rides up. They watch him throw a newspaper over the hedge, FAST and EXPLOSIVE, slamming the paper on the welcome mat by the front door. Shorty can't believe his eyes. "NOW, WE'RE GETTING somewhere. We just need 1 more player."

i love this stuff!

Can you DO THAT WITH A BASKETBALL?

ALL DAY LONG

PETER

WATCH This page NEXT MONTH!

THEY ARE A FORCE OF 4, LOOKING TO BE 5. CAN THEY KEEP THEIR DREAM ALIVE?

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the FULL COURT five

Peter

Nina

Hoops

Joan

Anton is wearing an NBA replica jersey by Champion. Shorty is wearing an NBA full-zip heavy weight jacket by Team Athletics. Hoops is wearing an NBA nylon windsuit by Team Athletics. Joan is wearing NBA sweats by Logo Athletic. Nina is wearing an NBA nylon V-neck trainer by Mighty-Mac.

Get all your NBA stuff.

SEARS

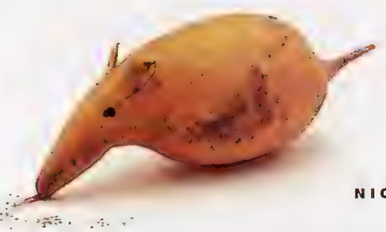
i love this stuff!

CRUNCHY CREATURES

These creatures are from the Joost Elffers book *Play With Your Food*.

We came up with some fruity (and vegetably) things for these characters to say. Can you match them to their quotes? Answers on page 62.

What a bunch of animals.



1. "Watch out! I'm a slippery character."
2. "These are *yammy!*"
3. "My name is Freddy Fungus."
4. "Pucker up and squeal!"
5. "Don't you recognize your sweet *aunt?*"
6. "I'm a bunny who could use a pepper-upper."
7. "Got any Fruit of the *Lamb* underwear?"
8. "We're the scallion battalion."
9. "I'm just a *cuke* little lizard."

CUTOUT PRANKS

Carefully tear out this prank food pyramid and exercise chart along the dotted lines. Post it somewhere and tell people it's the new nutrition guidelines just released by the FDA*.

*Fools and Dummies Administration

Better Nutrition Through The New Food Pyramid

A Guide to Daily Food Choices

The Gross Group
Eat Sparingly, If at All
Vegetables, Tofu, Wholly Boring Grains

The Gristle Group
2-3 Servings, If Even That Much
Very Big Dinners, Lots of Meats, Sauces, Pizzas

The Things-Eaten-With-Sliced-Bread Group
2-3 Servings–Go Ahead!
Big and Sloppy Sandwiches

The Sugar Group
3-5 Servings, or as Often as You Want
Sweetened Breakfast Cereals, Ice Cream, Milk Shakes

The Grease Group
3-5 Servings, Taken Throughout the Day
Fast Food, Chips, Fried Foods

The Snacks Group
6-11 Servings–The Foundation of a Good Diet–Dig In!
Chocolate, Sweets, Pretty Much Anything You Want

EXERCISE CHART

Once you've scaled the food pyramid, use this handy chart to turn an ordinary day into a 24-hour fitness frenzy.

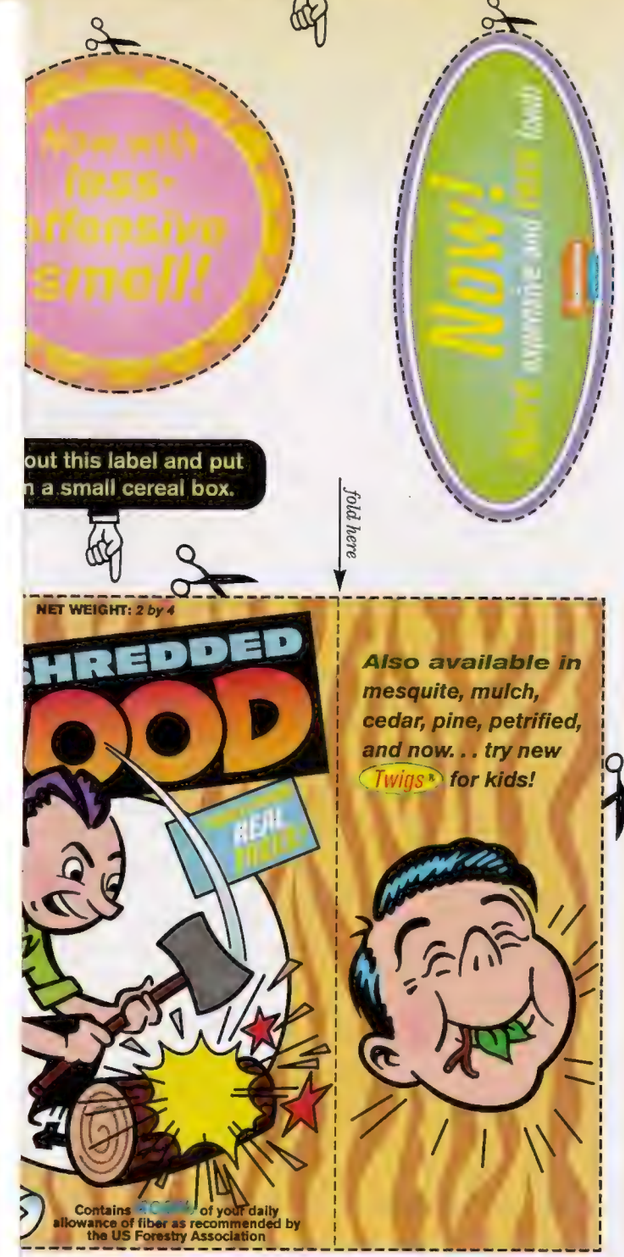
INSTEAD OF	TRY
Sleeping	Sleepwalking
Putting on slippers	Lacing up sneakers
Raising one hand	Raising two hands
Passing a note	Throwing a note
Going to the principal's office	Running to the principal's office
Slow, steady channel-surfing (five channels per minute)	Speed channel-surfing (20 cpm)
Nose picking	Apple picking
Eating whatever is in the refrigerator	Eating the refrigerator
Drinking milk through a straw	Drinking milk straight out of the jug

MORE

CUTOUT PRANKS

Use these freaky food labels to fool your friends and family.

Cut out these labels and put them on any food container.



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Eating whatever is in the refrigerator	Eating the refrigerator
Drinking milk through a straw	Drinking milk straight out of the jug

MORE

CUTOUT PRANKS

Use these freaky food labels to fool your friends and family.

Cut out these labels and put them on any food container.

Cut out this label and put it on a small cereal box.

fold here

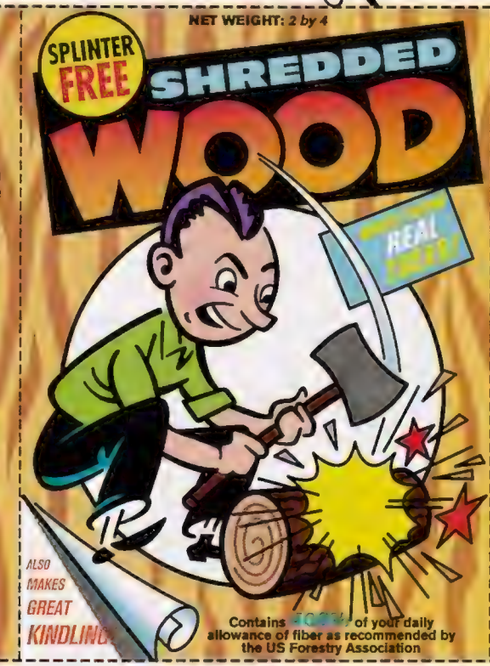
fold here

Nutrition Facts
Serving size: 1 plank

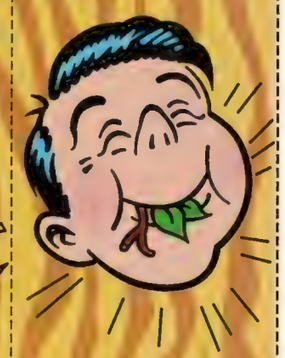
Percent of RDA

	Cereal	Cereal with wood glue
Carbohydrates	401%	401%
Chlorophyll	100%	100%
Bark	100%	100%
Sap	100%	100%
Xylem	100%	100%
Phloem	100%	100%
Glue	0%	100%

Ingredients: Wood



Also available in mesquite, mulch, cedar, pine, petrified, and now... try new Twigs® for kids!



EVEN MORE

CUTOUT PRANKS

Here are some more freaky food labels to fool your friends and family.

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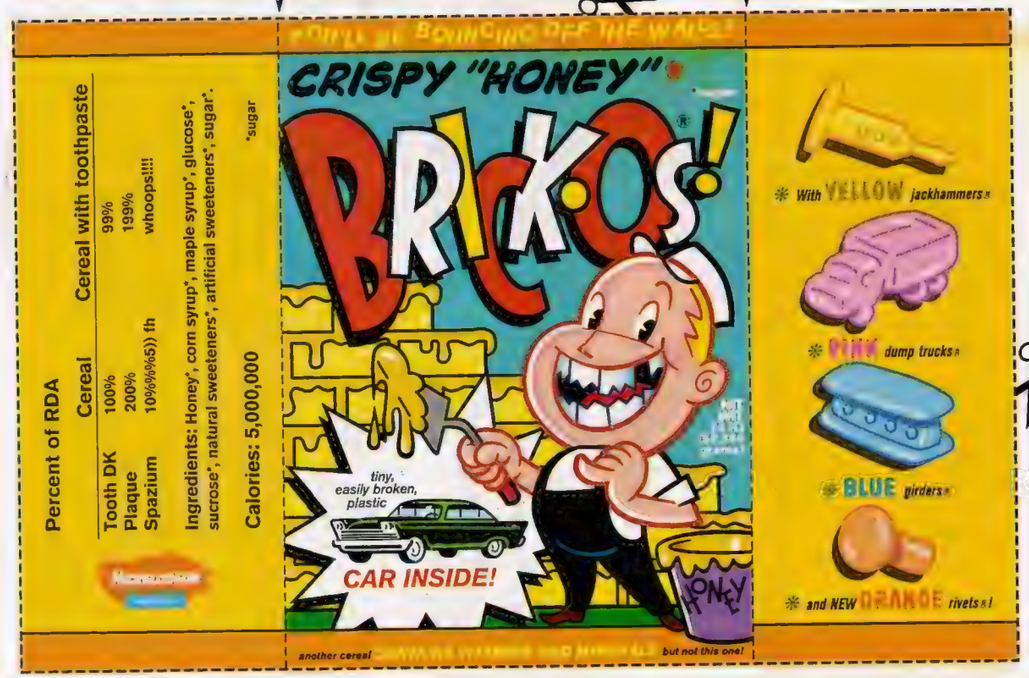
Cut out this label and put it on a small cereal box.

fold here

fold here



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Secret Paths in the Forest on CD-ROM lets you use your imagination to create and explore cool new places, just like the ones inside your head.

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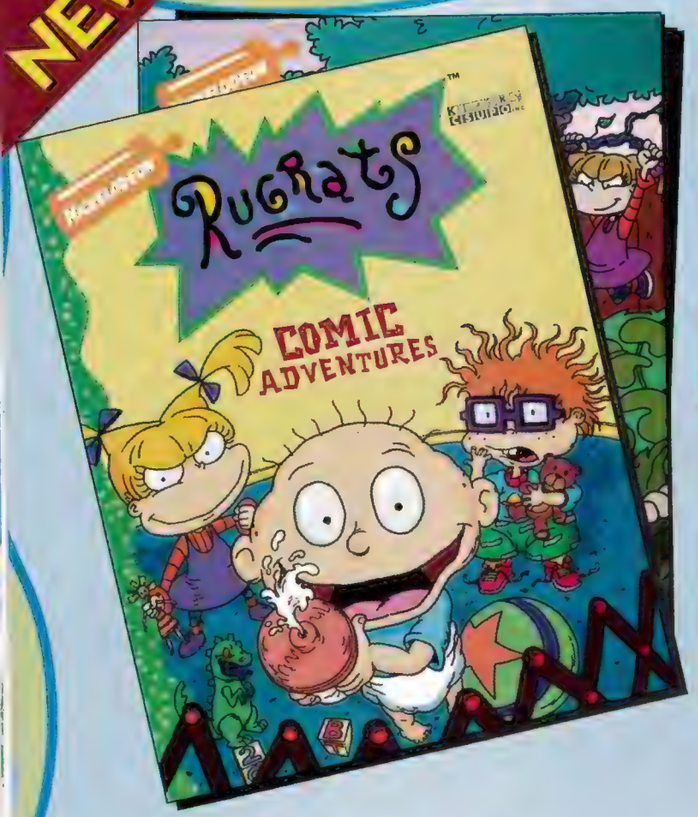

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SLIMY *the* SNOWMAN

Turn any old winter day into a snowy *Sundae* with our ice-cream snowman recipe. Each snowman serves two. by Fran Claro

Real

INGREDIENTS FOR THE SNOWMAN

- 1 adult (to help)
- ½ cup miniature marshmallows
- ¼ cup marshmallow creme
- 1½ cups coconut flakes
- 1 whole graham cracker
- 1 pint vanilla ice cream, slightly softened
- 4 pretzel sticks, short and skinny
- 6 black licorice bits
- 1 cinnamon red hot
- 1 licorice shoelace, at least 14 inches long

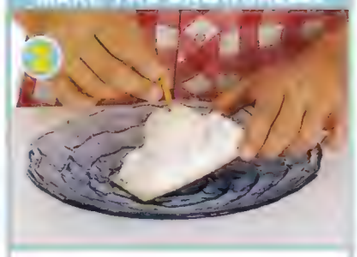
I'm dreaming of a green snowman.

INGREDIENTS FOR THE CREEM SLIME

MAKE THE SNOWMAN'S BASE

In a small bowl, stir together the marshmallows, the marshmallow creme, and a ½ cup of the coconut flakes. Place the graham cracker on a large plate. Using your fingers, spread the mixture on top of the cracker.

MAKE THE SNOWBALLS



Form three balls of ice cream, using a large ice-cream scooper or a ¼-cup measuring cup. Place one ice-cream ball on top of the graham cracker. Bake one thin

BUILD THE SNOWMAN

Put the second ball on top of the first. Insert another pretzel into the top of the second ball, if needed, to hold up the third ball. Place the third ball on top. Then g coconut an. Put him hour.

er in a small owman.

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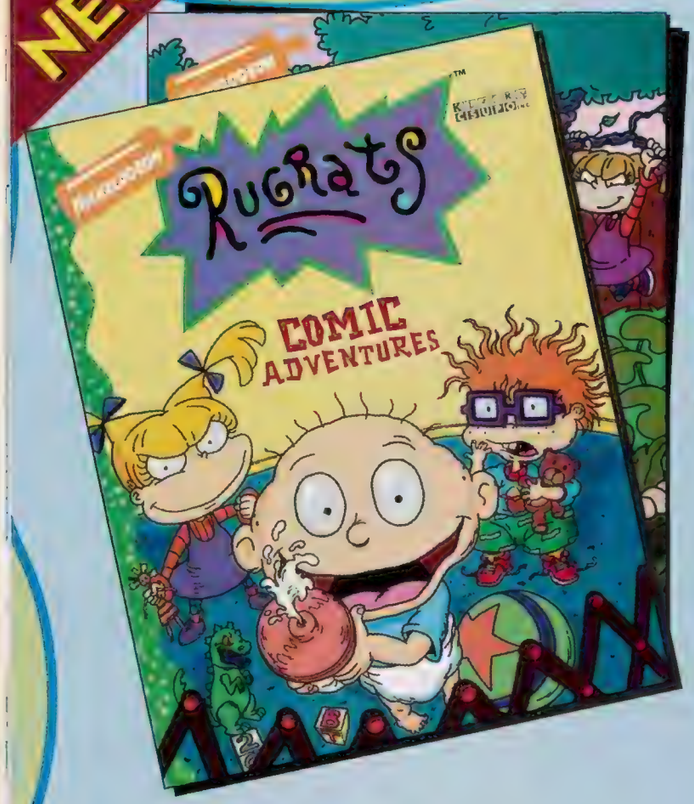

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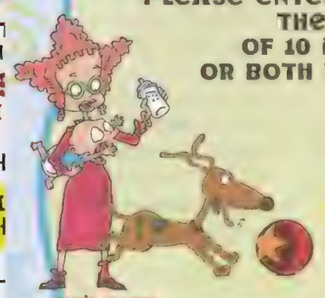

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SLIMY *the* SNOWMAN

Real

Turn any old winter day into a snowy *Sundae* with our ice-cream snowman recipe. Each snowman serves two. by Fran Claro

INGREDIENTS FOR THE SNOWMAN

- 1 adult (to help)
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- 1 whole graham cracker
- 1 pint vanilla ice cream, slightly softened
- 4 pretzel sticks, short and skinny
- 6 black licorice bits
- 1 cinnamon red hot
- 1 licorice shoelace, at least 14 inches long

INGREDIENTS FOR THE GREEN SLIME

- 1½ cups confectioners' sugar
- 3 tablespoons water
- 3 drops each of green, yellow, and blue food coloring

MAKE THE SNOWMAN'S BASE

In a small bowl, stir together the marshmallows, the marshmallow creme, and a ½ cup of the coconut flakes. Place the graham cracker on a large plate. Using your fingers, spread the mixture on top of the cracker.

MAKE THE SNOWBALLS

Form three balls of ice cream, using a large ice-cream scooper or a ¼-cup measuring cup. Place one ice-cream ball on top of the graham cracker. Poke one thin pretzel stick into the ball. The pretzel will help hold the second scoop in place.

BUILD THE SNOWMAN

Put the second ball on top of the first. Insert another pretzel into the top of the second ball, if needed, to hold up the third ball. Place the third ball on top. Then sprinkle the remaining coconut flakes on the snowman. Put him in the freezer for an hour.

DECORATE THE SNOWMAN

Stick on the black licorice bits for the nose, eyes, and buttons. Use the red hot for his mouth. Wrap the licorice shoelace around his neck for his scarf. Poke two pretzel sticks into his sides for arms. Then put your snowman back in the freezer until you're finished making the green slime.

MIX AND SPLAT!

Mix all the green slime ingredients together in a small bowl. Then use a spoon to slime your snowman.

Real Flubber Man Robin Williams

This holiday season, Robin Williams stars in *Flubber*, a remake of the classic 1961 movie *The Absent-Minded Professor*. In *Flubber*, Robin plays a nutty scientist who invents a slimy substance that can do almost anything—including make a car fly. David Lewman found out what the hubbub over *Flubber* is all about.

FLAPJACKS AND FLUBBER: Robin has company for breakfast.

NICKELODEON MAGAZINE: What exactly *is* Flubber?
ROBIN WILLIAMS: Flubber is a critter. A life-form. Mucus that moves. A booger with an attitude.

What are the biggest differences between the movies *Flubber* and *The Absent-Minded Professor*?
The major difference, besides the car (we use a '63 Thunderbird instead of a Model-T), is that in the new version Flubber is a creature, not just a bouncing ball.

Are you absentminded?
What'd you say? There are times—especially if I'm concentrating on something—when I focus on minor details and then realize "Oh! I have no clothes on."

Did you perform any difficult stunts for the movie?
There was some flying, which isn't difficult. It's actually fun when you're on a wire fifty feet up and then drop down within an inch of the floor.

Are you interested in science?
Very much. I'm fascinated by biology.

Genes and things like that?
Yes, designer genes—Calvin Clone. And I love playing on computers, but that's just playing.

What's your favorite number?
A googol. It's the number one followed by a hundred zeroes.

I like the *Googol* Dolls.

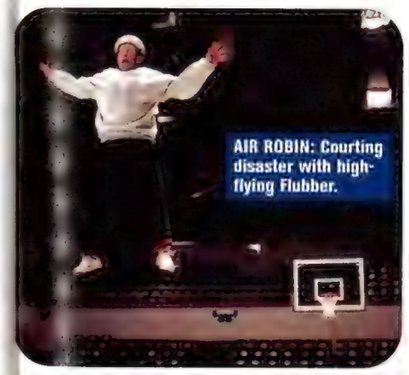
Do you ever get to meet scientists?
I occasionally meet Nobel Prize–winning biologists; I have a great admiration for them. They have a wonderful humble quality about them. I've never met a really egotistical scientist saying: *[raising voice]* "Have you seen *all* my molecules?"

Did you do any science experiments as a kid?
Only dissolving a tooth in a bottle of cola. You see the wonders of what soda can do in two days. *[kids' voice:]* "What's there?" *[scary voice:]* "There's just a strange foam where your protein used to be. Be afraid."

Growing up, did you joke around a lot?
No, I was a very quiet student.

Who made you laugh in school?
I had a wonderful history teacher with a very sarcastic, dry sense of humor. He was very funny, and that class still drives my fascination with politics—past and present.

When was the first time you got a laugh?
The first time I actually performed was in high school for a senior class "Make Fun of the School" night. I did a couple of impressions of teachers. That may have been the beginning.


AIR ROBIN: Courting disaster with high-flying Flubber.

What was your high school like?
I went to a private high school for boys. The first couple of years were pretty rough. There weren't only physical bullies but also intellectual ones: *[sarcastic voice]* "Oh, so you're not doing Advanced Babylonian Economics in ninth grade!"

UP IN SMOKE: Robin gets down and dirty in the lab.

Do you have any funny holiday memories?
My mother once baked a turkey with the plastic bag filled with giblets still inside. We cut the turkey and all of a sudden this lovely kind of burnt polymer smell came out: "Oh! Wow! That's good eatin', Ma! Nothin' like burnt plastic to say it's Thanksgiving! Doesn't get any better than this!" The next year we had turkey roll.

What's one of the first holiday presents you gave?
I remember one time I goofed up. I gave my mother these little mice that I had, but then it turned out that my mother had originally given them to me. This was when I was four, so I didn't have any idea I couldn't give back a gift.

Did your family have any dinnertime rules when you were growing up?
Eat. Eat with just one hand. Try not to bite those near you.

Do you have any dinnertime rules for your own kids?
No Nintendo at the dinner table.

Robin on Eatin'

Favorite lunch as a kid:
Hot dogs. "Until I found out what was in them."

Favorite holiday cookie:
Macaroon

Weirdest food ever eaten:
Okra. "It's basically like having a side order of mucus."

Popeye to Papa

Sing the words in green about Robin's career to the tune of "Popeye the Sailor Man."

Popeye, 1980: He's Robin the sailor man.

Hook, 1991: Then he played Peter Pan.

Aladdin, 1992: Next came the Genie.

Mrs. Doubtfire, 1993: Then Doubtfire who cleanies.

Jumanji, 1995: And here he needed a hand.

Fathers' Day, 1997: Pop! Pop!

How Sweet It Is

by John-Ryan Hevron

If more than 10 of these apply to you, you should probably cut down on the junk food.

____ You put sugar in your chocolate milk.

____ More than two items in your lunch are frosted.

____ You use licorice strips for shoelaces.

____ Your room is painted powdered-doughnut white.

____ You have 7UP piped into your shower, and you use a Rice Krispies Treat as a loofah.

____ Your home has a separate entrance for candy deliveries.

____ You could build a sand castle using the cookie crumbs under your bed.

____ You can taste the difference between the various colors of M&M's.

____ You think that marshmallow chicks hatch from chocolate Easter eggs.

____ You put Sweetarts on your pizza when you run out of pepperoni.

____ Mentos help give you the courage to handle difficult situations.

____ You accept 100 Grand bars as your allowance.

____ You think that you can catch Swedish fish with gummi worms.

____ You can't decide which candy necklace to wear to school.

Fifth Annual

New Year's Contest

Real

Enter our New Year's Contest. Here's how:

1. Choose a famous person, real or made-up, from the past or present.
2. Write three New Year's resolutions for that person.
3. Mail your entry by January 13, 1998, to:

New Year's Contest 1998
NICKELODEON MAGAZINE
1515 Broadway, 41st floor
New York, NY 10036

Examples:

Spice Girls

1. Go head-to-head with Salt-n-Pepa.
2. Meet some spice boys.
3. Study subtraction, so we can learn when two become one.

Paul Revere

1. Get off my high horse.
2. Try something new: "The Blowfish are coming!"
3. Next time, send a fax.

Will Smith

1. Try wearing a new color.
2. Don't wear sunglasses indoors.
3. Pick on someone from my own galaxy.

Please include your name, age, address, and phone number. Remember, we cannot return your entry. All entries become the exclusive property of Viacom International, Inc.

We'll print our favorites in a future issue. Winners will receive Nickelodeon Videos, a Nickelodeon T-shirt, and other Nickelodeon stuff!

he Animorph the Merrier

Real

plegate is the author of the Animorphs book series, tells the ongoing story of a group of kids who use ability to turn into animals to save the world from ig aliens. Louisa Campbell got in touch with K.A. to lk about animals, Animorphs, and vegetables.

Do you have pets now?
Yes, I have two cats, and they are kind of neurotic. Once, one of them typed "zzzzzzz" over an entire page I had just written. I guess she thought she was my editor.

Were there any vegetables you hated as a kid?
Brussels sprouts and lima beans.

Were you able to get out of eating them?
Yes—dogs are very handy in that way.

We're here to help.

K.A. P.S.

Full Name: Katherine Alice Applegate
Number of Books Written: More than 70, including 13 Animorphs novels
Favorite Animorphs Book: *The Message*
Favorite Book as a Kid: *Charlotte's Web*
Favorite Foods: Popcorn and cereal
Favorite Meal of the Day: Breakfast

How Sweet It Is

by John-Ryan Hevron

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TURNING A NEW LEAF: *The Change* and *The Andalite Chronicles* are the latest Animorphs stories by K.A.

The Animorph the Merrier

Real

K.A. Applegate is the author of the Animorphs book series, which tells the ongoing story of a group of kids who use their ability to turn into animals to save the world from invading aliens. Louisa Campbell got in touch with K.A. to talk about animals, Animorphs, and vegetables.

NICKELODEON MAGAZINE: If you could morph, what animals would you want to be?
K.A. APPLEGATE: I'd become a dolphin, because they move in such a beautiful way and they're extremely intelligent. It would also be fantastic to experience flight as a bird, as Tobias [one of the Animorphs] does.

How are you able to describe what it feels like to become an animal?
Most of my descriptions come from my imagination, but I also have a huge library of animal reference books that I read. And to write about Tobias being a hawk, for example, I watched red-tail hawks at a local center for injured birds of prey.

How do you come up with the way your aliens look?
I look through my animal reference books. The earth has an amazing variety of species. The Taxxons, for instance, are really just giant centipedes.

Do you write an outline before starting an Animorphs story?
I write a very brief, one-page outline. Still, when I start writing, I'm never really sure where the book will take me until I finish it.

Did you write stories when you were a kid?
The first story I remember writing was when I was about 11. It was about a peccary, a type of wild boar from South America, named Alice.

Did you have pets growing up?
We had dogs and cats and all sorts of smaller animals. I was really into pets—I remember looking into my dog's eyes for long periods of time, trying to figure out what she was thinking. I also launched the gerbil craze in my neighborhood.

Do you have pets now?
Yes, I have two cats, and they are kind of neurotic. Once, one of them typed "zzzzzzz" over an entire page I had just written. I guess she thought she was my editor.

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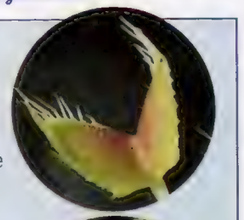
December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Real	**1** Toy Trivia #1: Play-Doh was invented to clean wallpaper.	**2** Georges Seurat, artist, born, 1859 ***Dots* all.**	**3** First heart transplant performed, Cape Town, South Africa, 1967 **Someone had a change of heart.**	**4** Toy Trivia #2: The largest game of Twister included 4,160 people.	**5** Little Richard, musician, born, 1932 **He was even Littler then.**	**6** Joyce Kilmer, poet, born, 1886 **He was part of his family tree.**
7 Delaware becomes the first state to ratify the Constitution, 1787 **We weren't *Delaware* of that.**	**8** Teri Hatcher, actress, born, 1964 **Did she live on Lois Lane?**	**9** Toy Trivia #3: The smell of Crayola crayons is one of the 20 most-recognizable scents to all Americans.	**10** Mississippi becomes the 20th state, 1817 **It took a while because they had to figure out how to spell it.**	**11** Toy Trivia #4: Two Barbie dolls are sold around the world every second.	**12** WELCOME TO PENNSYLVANIA AMERICA STARTS HERE Pennsylvania becomes the second state to ratify the Constitution, 1787 **Honor your *PA*.**	**13** Toy Trivia #5: Mr. Potato Head was the first toy to be advertised on television.
14 Tell Someone They're Doing a Good Job Week begins **Is next week Tell Someone They Stink Week?**	**15** Congress passes the Bill of Rights, 1791 **Who did they pass it to?**	**16** Ludwig van Beethoven, composer, born, 1770 **His father cried, "It's a *son*-ata!"**	**17** *A Christmas Carol* is first published, 1843 **Who the Dickens wrote it?**	**18** Su-lin becomes the first giant panda to arrive in the U.S., 1936 **She was greeted with great *panda*-monium.**	**19** Alyssa Milano, actress, born, 1972 **Then she moved to *Melrose Place*.**	**20** Harvey Firestone, tire manufacturer, born, 1868 **Did his parents have a spare baby?**
21 International Lipstick Week begins **Pucker up.** First day of winter	**22** Diane Sawyer, TV journalist, born, 1945 **She went *Prime Time Live* today.** Zodiac sign Capricorn begins	**23** First nonstop airplane flight around the world completed, 1986 **It was no flight of fancy.**	**24** Hanukkah begins; Christmas Eve **It's a big night for candles.**	**25** Clara Barton, nurse and founder of the American Red Cross, born, 1821 **Show some TLC.** Christmas Day	**26** Toy Trivia #6: More than one billion Hot Wheels cars have been made since 1968. Kwanzaa begins	**27** Five days left in 1997 **Start counting down.** 5 4 3 2 1
28 Iowa becomes the 29th state, 1846 ***Iowa* thank-you card to everyone who got me a present.**	**29** Charles Goodyear, inventor, born, 1800 **Was it a Goodyear?**	**30** Toy Trivia #7: A standard Monopoly game contains $15,140 in play money.	**31** Make Up Your Mind Day **We can't decide how to celebrate this.** New Year's Eve Ramadan begins	NICKELODEON magazine		

Freak O system

Venus Flytrap

by Amy Weingartner



What it is: A carnivorous (meat-eating) plant that gobbles up any insect that lands on its spiny leaves. Don't let the pretty little white blossoms fool you—this plant is no wallflower.

How big is it? Anywhere from 8 to 12 inches tall

Where does it live? In bogs along the coast of North and South Carolina

What? Flies again? The flytrap eats bugs, bugs, and more bugs. Insects provide much-needed nitrogen to the plant's diet. Flies are its favorite meal.

BYE-BYE FLY: The Venus flytrap in action.

How it works: The Venus flytrap has six trigger hairs on each leaf. When an unsuspecting insect takes a stroll on a leaf and touches the hairs, the flytrap's hinged, jaw-like leaf springs into action. The jaws join together and squeeze the prey against the digestive glands on the leaf's surface.

Why it would lose a pie-eating contest: Although a Venus flytrap can snag a bug in less than half a second, it takes much longer for the plant to digest its prey. A flytrap spends 8 to 10 days digesting one fly.

Accept no substitutes: The flytrap can sense the difference between living and dead objects. For the trap to be activated, a trigger hair much be touched twice in succession or two hairs must be touched at the same time. That way, the flytrap only eats things that are moving around.

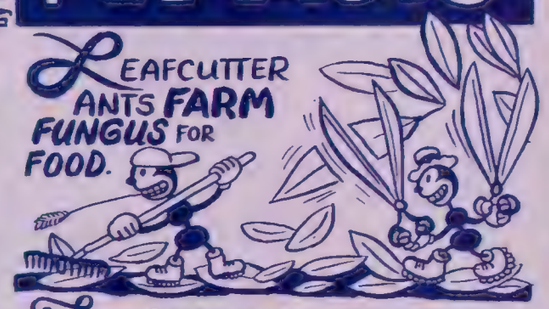
Neat party trick: The Venus flytrap secretes a red sap to digest an insect's body, making the plant's leaves turn bright red after a meal.

I need a Venus flea-trap.

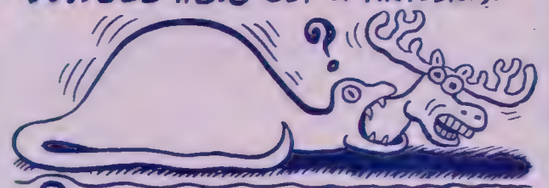
Real

REVOLTING BUT TRUE FACTS

by Ruth Lindy

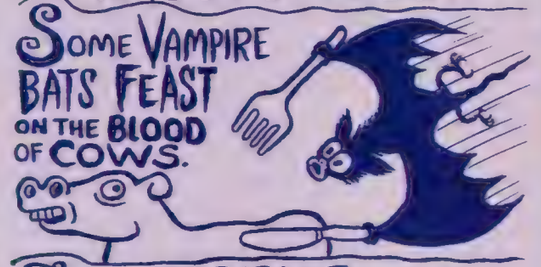


THE ANACONDA, A TYPE OF SNAKE, CAN SWALLOW A DEER WHOLE (UNLESS THE DEER HAS A BIG SET OF ANTLERS).



SOME LARVAL WASPS LIVE INSIDE THE BODIES OF LIVE CATERPILLARS, EATING THE FAT AND BLOOD OF THEIR HOSTS.

SOME VAMPIRE BATS FEAST ON THE BLOOD OF COWS.



THERE ARE PARASITES THAT LIVE IN HUMANS, NOURISHED BY THE CELLS OF THE INTESTINES.

SPECIAL ADVERTISING SECTION

THE OFFICIAL 1997 NICKELODEON MAGAZINE

Holiday GIFT GUIDE and WORD HUNT

You've been waiting all year and here it is, just in time for the holidays. It's our annual sneak preview of the hottest new games, toys, software, books, videos, and everything else you might want.

This year, we've added a word hunt on the last page. After you read about the gifts, look at the word list. See if you can find each word in one of the descriptions. Then fill out the card at the end of this section, and drop it in the mail. You'll have a chance at winning ALL THE GIFTS IN THE GIFT GUIDE!

And don't forget the Wish List on that same page. It may come in handy for letting people know which gifts you'd like to get.

THE HUNT IS ON!

HIDDEN TALENTS

Hidden Talents lets you spend hours of fun uncovering the wackiest and tackiest things about you and your friends, with questions like, "Who can write her name best...using her toes?"

THREE REASONS TO CELEBRATE WITH HANSON

Middle of Nowhere, Hanson's debut album, has been in the Top Ten for more than four months and has sold over five million albums worldwide.

Snowed In is a collection of traditional holiday classics and a few new, Hanson-penned soon-to-be-classics.

Tulsa, Tokyo, and Middle of Nowhere contains more than 82 minutes of exclusive, never-before-seen video footage of the band on the road.

SPECIAL ADVERTISING SECTION

HUTCH/NFL FLAG FOOTBALL SET

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Hutch Sports USA, Inc., Hebron, KY 41048

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Play in the dirt like the big boys. Pick your tires—grippy, normal or slippery—and rumble through the jungle in a 3-D, mud-loving monster. Scream past the ocean, duck under tunnels, climb rocky walls, or race through giant mud puddles without flipping on your head. You've got to get this game!

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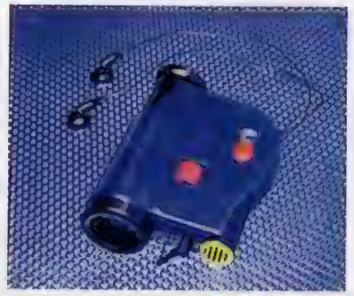

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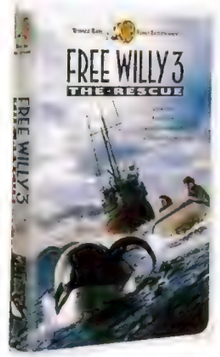

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"Must buy!"–PS*Extreme* Magazine

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(The missing words from our "Pine Peak Blues" rhyme are: around, face, fear, night, there.)

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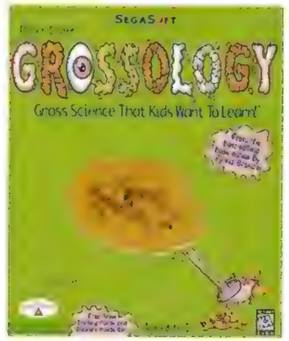

If it's stinky, scaly, or slimy and it's on your body, you can learn all about it with GROSSOLOGY®, a new CD-ROM by SegaSoft! It's science that's fun and fascinating—and totally gross. Interact with funny characters, learn grody factoids, play funny games, conduct lab experiments, and create gross symphonies in the audio lab.

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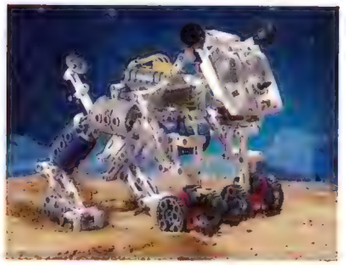

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Here's all you have to do: Fill out the postcard, place a 20¢ stamp where it says "stamp," and drop the card in the mailbox. Or write your name, address, phone number, and birth date on a blank postcard and send it to:

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All entries must be received by midnight, 2/23/98. Entrants must be 17 years or younger as of 2/17/98. Odds of winning will depend on total number of qualified entries received. Total estimated value of this sweepstakes is $1375.24. Sweepstakes is not open to employees and their immediate families of MTV Networks, Viacom International Inc., Paramount Pictures Corporation, their parents, subsidiaries and affiliated companies, advertising agencies, and any and all sponsors. Sweepstakes is subject to the complete official rules. To obtain a copy of the official rules and/or winners list, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: NICKELODEON MAGAZINE, 1515 Broadway, 41st Floor, New York, NY 10036. Attn: I'll Take One of Everything Sweepstakes. All requests must be received by 3/2/98. All entries become the property of MTV Networks and will not be returned.

1997 HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE WORD HUNT

Before you mail your Sweepstakes entry, try this Word Hunt game. Each word listed below appears in a different gift description in our Holiday Gift Guide. Read each gift description carefully. When you find one of the words from the list, circle it and then cross it off the list. When you're finished, you should have one word circled in each description–and the list should be wiped out.

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1997 NICKELODEON MAGAZINE Holiday Gift Guide Wish List

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- ☐ HANSON CDs and VIDEO
- ☐ RUGRATS® COMPUTER ACCESSORIES
- ☐ HUTCH/NFL FLAG FOOTBALL SET
- ☐ TOP GEAR RALLY
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- ☐ SONIC SCOPE™ FROM WILD PLANET TOYS
- ☐ SKETCHBOARD
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- ☐ ROBOTIX® ROBO-DOG™
- ☐ WISHBONE™ CD-ROMs

Puff and Stuff

John-Ryan Hevron caught up with some of the celebrities backstage at the 1997 MTV Video Music Awards. He pitched these hard-hitting questions their way.

Sean "Puffy" Combs

What was the last song you couldn't get out of your head?
The Wallflowers song ["One Headlight"].

Jewel

Do you take any kind of good luck charms with you on tour?
I bring things that remind me of home.

Fiona Apple

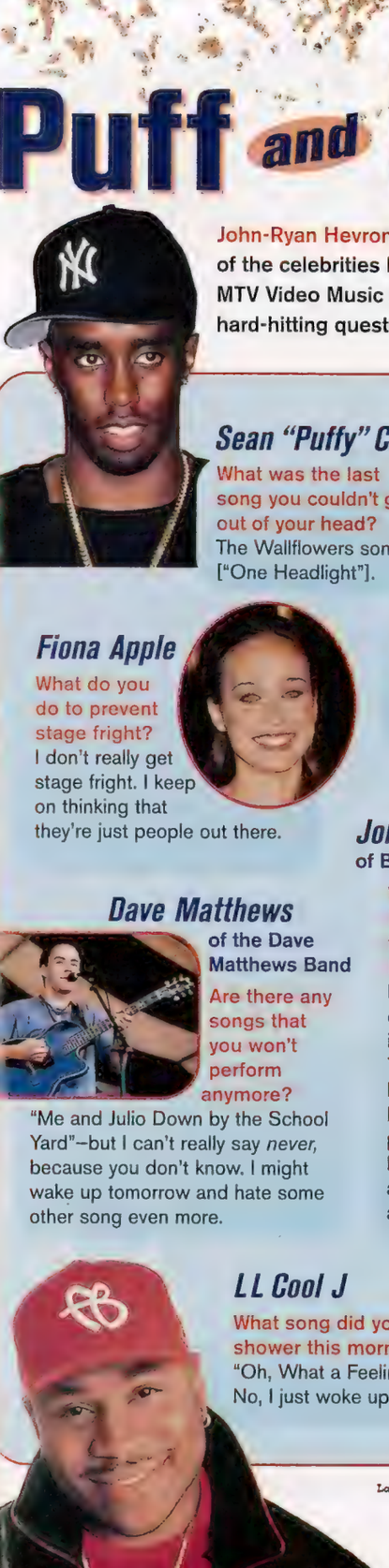
What do you do to prevent stage fright?
I don't really get stage fright. I keep on thinking that they're just people out there.

John Popper
of Blues Traveler

What's it like opening for another band?
Being an opening band is its own kind of job. You have to deliver a lot of energy. You have to accept that people aren't going to know who you are, and just play as hard as you can.

Dave Matthews
of the Dave Matthews Band

Are there any songs that you won't perform anymore?
"Me and Julio Down by the School Yard"–but I can't really say *never*, because you don't know. I might wake up tomorrow and hate some other song even more.



LL Cool J

What song did you sing in the shower this morning?
"Oh, What a Feeling." Just kidding. No, I just woke up happy and thankful.

Lakelands Love Cool J.

Real

Toy Story

The Danish band Aqua floated to the top of the charts with their song "Barbie Girl." *Water* they all about? John-Ryan Hevron dove in to find out.

Who they are: Lene Grawford Nystrøm, René Dif, Claus Norreen, and Søren Rasted
How long they've been singing together: Four years
How they got their name: It wasn't easy. "We had a lot of arguments and came up with a thousand different names," says Claus. One possibility was T-Bone Steak. The members finally settled on Aqua (short for *aquarium*) after René was inspired by a poster for a local aquarium hanging in Claus' study. *Aqua* means water in Latin.
Languages spoken: Altogether, the band members speak six languages–Danish, English, German, Norwegian, Spanish, and French.
Playtime: None of the band members had Barbie or Ken dolls growing up, although they do now. Fans throw dolls on stage during their performances.
Barbie band? Aqua doesn't like to be known as the Barbie band. "We have so many songs on the album," says René, "and we have tried to give each song its own sound."
Sounds fishy: Aqua's album may be called *Aquarium*, but nobody in the band has one. They *do* have a fishbowl filled with goldfish that they keep at their record company's office in Denmark.

Real ooze news
NEWS FROM NICKELODEON • DECEMBER 1997

Nick's Mad Scientists

by CHERYL FAMILY

Nickelodeon's **CREATIVE LAB** is not a room filled with smelly liquids, Bunsen burners, and test tubes. It's a place where Nickelodeon develops new characters, stories, and ideas. Creative Lab's two-to-five-minute cartoons and movies, such as "Ted the Head" and "Natalie," are shown between Nick shows.

Instead of mixing chemicals, the five full-time "lab" technicians experiment with ideas. "It's like we drop little seeds in the ground, and sometimes they grow into a weird tomato, and sometimes a flower," says the Lab's creative director, Amy Friedman. If the projects are good enough, they become part of regular shows. "The Off-Beats" and "The Girl With Her Head Coming Off," now seen on *KABLAM!*, started out in the Creative Lab.

Members of the Creative Lab filled us in on what they've brewed in their beakers.

FOILED AGAIN: Foilman fights a leftover sandwich.

KID-CREATED MOVIES

Example: "Foilman"

What it's about: The idea for this series is simple—kids make a movie with a specific theme, such as superheroes or the future.

Getting ready: Members of the Creative Lab visited schools around the world—from the U.S. to Great Britain—and taught students how to make a movie. Then, at each school, they chose one student's story to turn into a film. That's why these movies are all called "Short Films by Short People."

Behind the scenes: The "Foilman" minimovie was written by fifth-grader Brennan Weir of New York City. It tells the tale of a superhero made of foil. Brennan, like all kid screenwriters of "Short Films by Short People," was an adviser during production of the movie.

Other "Short Films": "The Adventures of Sam Digital in the 21st Century" and "Happy Birthday 2 U+U+U"

MINISERIES WITH A THEME

Example: "Inside Eddie Johnson"

Number of episodes: Three—"Blush," "Fart," and two-parter "Sugar High and Crash"

What it's about: Creative Lab boss Amy and her team wanted to do something about science. So they came up with the idea of a reporter broadcasting from inside a kid's body.

Getting ready: Amy hired science writer Ira Flatow to give expert advice about how the body works.

Behind the scenes: "Inside Eddie Johnson" was shot in a huge studio in Brooklyn, New York. There were so many sets for different parts of the body that people were tripping over the heart set while filming in the intestine. A lot of fart jokes were made while filming "Eddie Johnson," Amy says, "because the 'Fart' episode was everyone's favorite."

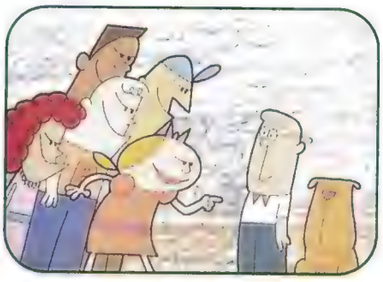
Other miniseries: "Former Kids" and "Looking at Each Other"

IN AND OUT *(clockwise from top)*: Outside Eddie Johnson; inside the brain with star Susan Sarandon; in the belly of the boy.

STOP RIGHT HERE *(top and bottom)*: Scenes from the school bus.

LIVE-ACTION AND ANIMATED SHORT STORIES

Example: "As Our Schoolbus Turns"



Number of episodes: Five, including "Dog Food" and "New Kid"

What it's about: A bunch of kids on a school bus. It's presented like a soap opera, and recounts the woes of middle-school life.

Getting ready: Producers wanted to shoot the episodes on a moving school bus, so they found a park in South Orange, New Jersey, with a loop to drive the bus around. The series was shot in five days.

Behind the scenes: A real crossing guard, who's also the mom of one of the actors, plays the crossing guard in "Schoolbus." The first day of shooting was a beautiful fall day. The next day, it started snowing. So within one episode, some scenes have snow and some don't. Then the heater broke in the actors' dressing room. So parents and kid actors had to hang out in their cars to keep warm.

Other short stories: "The Girl With Her Head Coming Off" and "The Off-Beats" *(above)*

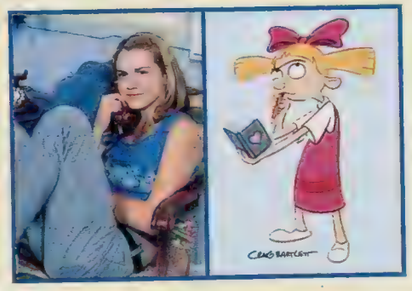
Look for new shows from the Creative Lab in January 1998.

What's New on Nick

by Erica Pass

Hope for the Holidays

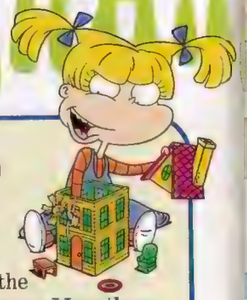
Wondering what Nick characters want for the holidays? Match each character with his or her fantasy gift, then tune in the week of December 15 at 8 PM to find out whether their wishes come true.
Answers on page 82.



1. Angelica Pickles of *Rugrats*
2. Kenan Rockmore of *Kenan & Kel*
3. Allen Strange of *The Journey of Allen Strange*
4. Helga Pataki of *Hey Arnold!*
5. Alex Mack of *The Secret World of Alex Mack*

A. Roadblazer Deluxe Elite Mountain Bike
B. Official Nancy Spumoni Snow Boots
C. A couple of Quotietz
D. Deluxe Cynthia Beach House
E. A part-time job, so she can buy gifts for her family

'Toon In



Check out happy holiday episodes of your favorite cartoons during the Christmas Nicktoon Marathon on Saturday, December 20, from 5 to 8 PM. Then stay tuned for the *Rugrats* Hanukkah Special at 8 PM. The *Rugrats* special also airs on Friday, December 26, at 7:30 PM; Saturday, December 27, at 10 AM; and Sunday, December 28, at 8 PM.

Shows air one hour earlier in the central time zone. Show times subject to change.

Real Hey, Herb!

Where you ask the president of Nickelodeon, Herb Scannell, anything you want.

What's your favorite part of a holiday meal?
I like stuffing with gravy.

Are you allergic to any foods?
I'm not allergic to any foods. I *am* allergic to dust, grass, and mold. During hay-fever season, I'm a disaster.

What are your New Year's Resolutions going to be this year?
- Eat food with less cholesterol.
- Get home from work at a reasonable hour.
- Get to the gym on time.
- Help the Mets win the World Series.

SEND YOUR QUESTIONS TO:

Hey, Herb!
NICKELODEON MAGAZINE
1515 Broadway, 41st floor
New York, NY 10036

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The Jokes

by David Lewman

What do you get when you raise a fish on Swiss cheese?
A holey mackerel.

What did the burger say to the bun?
"Pleased to meat you."

What do you call frozen tortillas with beans?
Brrr-itos.

When is the best time to cook eggs?
At the crack of dawn.

Why wouldn't the chef chop up the dictionary?
He refused to mince words.

What did Miss Muffet say to the Spanish spider?
"No whey, José."

What happened to the skillet's marriage?
It just didn't pan out.

Why didn't the toaster get married?
He was afraid to pop the question.

Why did the pudding break up with the spoon?
He got under her skin.

Why did Kaitlyn eat a plateful of toast for dinner?
She wanted a square meal.

What did the baker say to the burglar?
"You take the cake."

When can you learn something at dinner?
When there are several courses.

What do carrots do on the weekend?
They just veg out.

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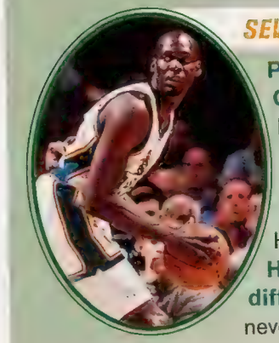
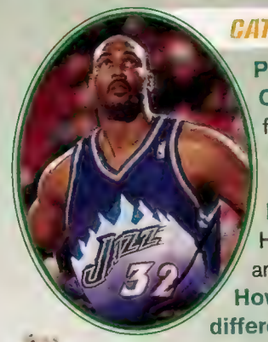
You'd think being a professional athlete would keep a person too busy for a sideline. Andrew Santella found out how some players earn their overtime pay.

Real



SEW WHAT?

Player: Malik Sealy
On the court: Detroit Pistons guard and forward
Off the court: Has his own line of men's designer ties
How the jobs are alike: He suits up for both.
How the jobs are different: Basketball games never end in a tie.

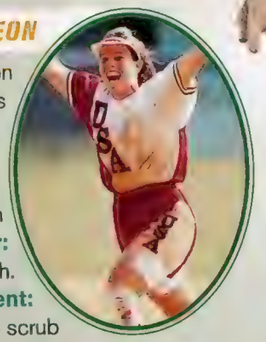


CATTLE CALL

Player: Karl Malone
On the court: Utah Jazz forward
Off the court: Cattle rancher; car dealership owner
How the jobs are alike: He can drive the ball, the cattle, and the cars.
How the jobs are different: He can dunk only the ball.

And I thought he was a mailman!

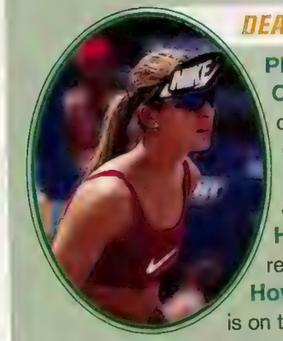
GOLD-MEDAL SURGEON



Player: Dot Richardson
On the field: United States Olympic Softball Team shortstop
Off the field: Orthopedic surgeon
How the jobs are similar: She wears gloves for both.
How the jobs are different: She doesn't have to scrub before playing softball.

HISS JOB

Player: Chad Brown
On the field: Seattle Seahawks linebacker
Off the field: Reptile store owner; snake breeder
How the jobs are similar: Fans and snakes both hiss.
How the jobs are different: Football has a pigskin; snakes have shedding skin.



DEADLINE DIGGER

Player: Gabrielle Reece
On the beach: Team Nike captain and middle blocker (volleyball)
Off the beach: Columnist for *Sports for Women* magazine
How the jobs are alike: Both require a hard-hitting style.
How the jobs are different: One is on the beach, and one is on the beat.

HE HAS A PRAYER

Player: Reggie White
On the field: Green Bay Packers defensive end
Off the field: Associate pastor at a church
How the jobs are alike: He has to work on Sundays for both.
How the jobs are different: There's no Gatorade in church.

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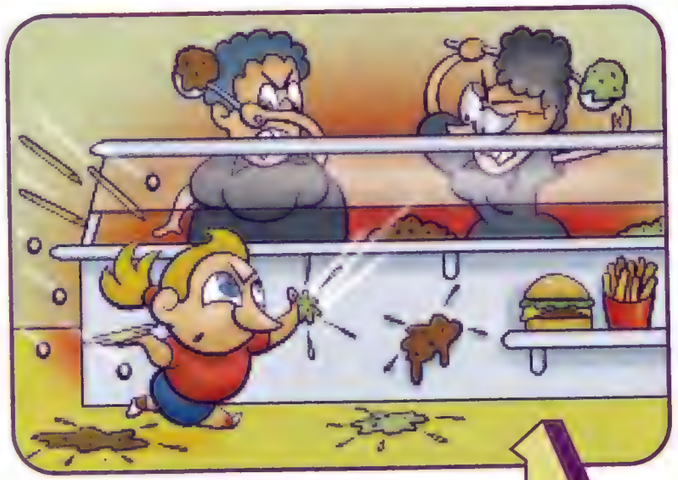
WHATEVER YOU WANT

The Next Level Contest

Real In our August issue we asked you to design the next level of our made-up video game, *Time Killerz 24*. Here are our contest winners and honorable mentions.



WINNER

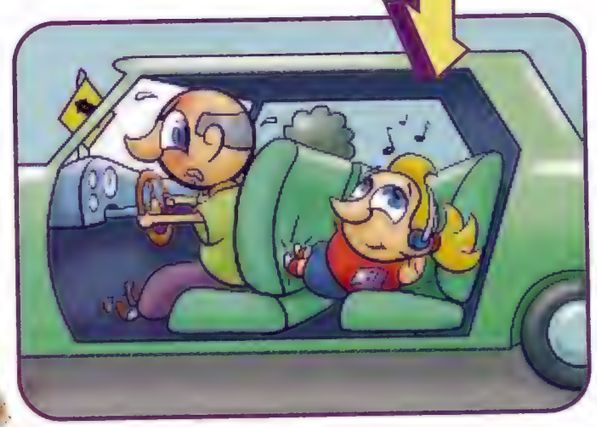
Level 6: The Backseat Duel

As you and your Feisty Family jump into the Van of Vengeance, snatch the Brilliant Backseat for 1-Ups before your Snobby Siblings do. Roll down the Wild Window to tell the Groaning Grown-Ups what you want at the Food Court Kingdom Drive-Thru during the Break of Relief. Cover your ears with your Headphones of Happiness to fight the Music of Monotony and push your dad's Deadly Driver's Seat up before it smashes one of your 1-Ups. After that ask "Are we there yet?" to arrive at the Food Court Kingdom and get ready for Level 7!

Bonus Tip:

When the Groaning Grown-Ups stop for a Break of Relief, switch their radio to the Music of Merriment for a warp to the final level!

Devin B., age 11
Stockton, California



WINNER

Level 6: The Time of the Learning

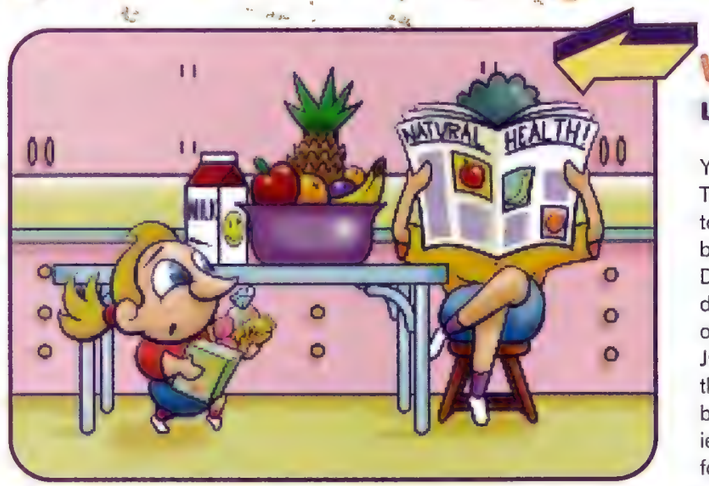
As you near the School of Substitutes, use your Warp Speed to get to class before the bell rings and to avoid Cranky Classmates. When you go into the classroom, use your Power of Sneakiness to creep to your Desk of Doom before your Evil Alien Substitute gives you the Pop Quiz of Peril. Next, dodge spitballs and pencils while using your Warp Speed so that the Cafeteria Ladies from Hades won't have a chance to put Rotten Creamed Spinach and Mystery Meat on your Power Plate and take away your strength.

Bonus Tip:

When you get past the Ladies from Hades, look under the counter to find Burgers and Quick-Thinking Fries, which will boost your power level.

Rob A., age 10
Toms River, New Jersey

Use the Pup of Hunger to eat the Luscious Leftovers.



WINNER

Level 6: Journey to the Junk Food

Your hopes rise the next morning as the Treasured Groceries arrive. Your task is to pass the Healthasaurus Mom, who will bombard you with Wheat Germ Mush and Disgusting Vitamin Pills (which you must dodge) as you pass into the Pantry Kingdom of Junk Food. Here, you collect as much Junk Food as you can carry and slip past the Healthasaurus Mom again (now hidden behind the newspaper) and stash the goodies in your closet. You can use the loot later for a midnight snack!

Bonus Tip:

The more sugar and calories in the Junk Food, the more points you get.

Katie D., age 10
Shippensburg, Pennsylvania

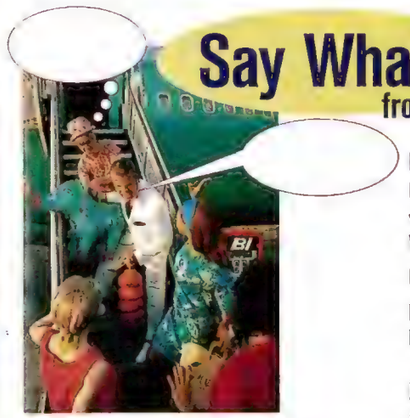
Each contest winner will receive a NICKELODEON MAGAZINE backpack filled with Microsoft's Nickelodeon 3D Movie Maker (for Windows 95), the new Nick video *Arnold's Christmas*, and other great Nickelodeon stuff.

Honorable Mentions

A '70s Flashback Aisha E., age 12 Miami, Florida	**The Mega Flush** Patrick K.-H., age 10 Goshen, Massachusetts
Nighttime Snack Dan R., age 12 Orland Park, Illinois	**Dreamland** Chelsea C. Des Moines, Iowa

We have to level with you—your entries were great!

Say What? from the August issue.



Man: I just flew in from New York and, boy, are my arms tired.
Woman: That joke doesn't work if the plane is behind you.

Tahj S., age 10
Poughkeepsie, New York

Man: Sorry, we couldn't find little Billy. We'll just have to leave without him.
Woman: Shh, Billy, keep on doing your piñata act. Then we'll be on our way.

Erin R., age 11
Lee's Summit, Missouri

Man: Ladies, remember: Sunscreen and hair-care products are your best friends.
Woman: Hmm...if I can get a little of that gel from his hair, I can loosen his grip.

Jessica J., age 12
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Man: She told me to pack a trunk for our trip, but this isn't what I had in mind.
Woman: I left with one dumbo; now I'm coming home with two!

Roslyn B., age 10
Rochester, Pennsylvania

ANSWERS

It's a Wonderful Quiz (page 7):

- *A Charlie Brown Christmas*
- *Santa Claus Conquers the Martians*
- *The Santa Clause*
- *Jingle All the Way*
- *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*
- *It's a Wonderful Life*
- *Rudolph's Shiny New Year*
- *The Little Drummer Boy*
- *Miracle on 34th Street*

Food Faves (page 10):
1-E, **2**-F, **3**-H, **4**-D, **5**-B, **6**-G, **7**-C, **8**-A.

Chocolate Quiz (page 12):
1-F, **2**-T, **3**-F, **4**-T, **5**-T, **6**-F, **7**-F, **8**-T, **9**-F, **10**-F, **11**-T, **12**-F, **13**-F, **14**-T.

An A-Peeling Quiz (page 28):
1-corn, **2**-onion, **3**-cantaloupe, **4**-apple, **5**-pineapple, **6**-banana, **7**-plum, **8**-nectarine, **9**-potato, **10**-red pepper, **11**-date, **12**-kiwi, **13**-avocado.

What's the Dish? (page 30):
breakfast = corn flakes in milk with sugar; side order to breakfast = toast with butter and jelly; lunch = grilled cheese sandwich with tomato; light lunch = peanut butter and jelly sandwich; casual dinner = hamburger and fries; dinner = macaroni and cheese; dessert = apple pie; what I'd like = for you to speak simply or I'll stiff you on the tip, complain to your boss, and ride my bike out of here. Got it?

Crunchy Creatures (page 49):
1-G, **2**-H, **3**-D, **4**-B, **5**-C, **6**-F, **7**-E, **8**-I, **9**-A.

Hope for the Holidays (page 76):
1-D, **2**-A, **3**-C, **4**-B, **5**-E.

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GOOF TROOPE

We miscredited the photo of Drew Barrymore in our November issue. It should have read: Ellis O'Brien/Retna. It didn't. Retna, we're glad we met ya. Also, Debbie Albenda helped design the November issue.

OTHER CREDITS: All Zelda photographs by Janette Beckman. The crumbs at the top of our pages and the salt and pepper shakers at the bottom were dropped, photographed, and then thrown over her left shoulder by Cathy Crawford. Food styling by Robert Yamarone ("An A-Peeling Quiz," "Slimy the Snowman," "Eat These Words," "Chocolate-Flavored Quiz"). Debbie Albenda helped design this issue. All Gag Station pumps by Kaz. **9:** Leslie Nielsen, Alex D. Linz, and Bernadette Peters interviewed by John-Ryan Hevron; Kristen Johnston and Charisma Carpenter interviewed by Monica Rizzo. **49:** *Play With Your Food* copyright 1997 Joost Elffers. Published by Stewart, Tabori & Chang. Widely available in bookstores. **76:** *Rugrats* created by Klasky-Csupo, Inc.

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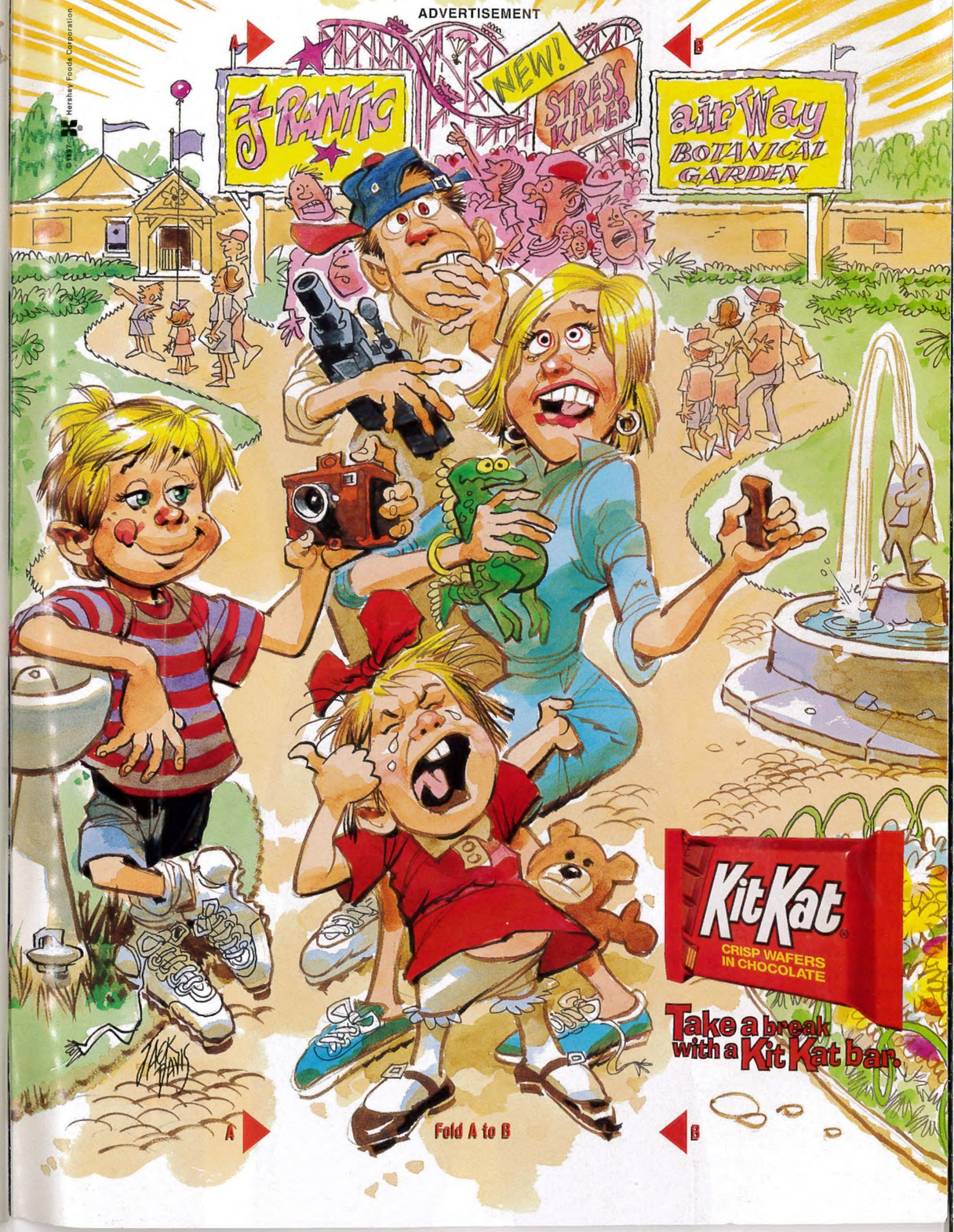

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